

Jordan Times

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Court completes Al Nahda questioning

TUNIS (AP) — A military court Tuesday completed questioning of 137 Muslim fundamentalists on trial for allegedly attempting to overthrow the government. The trial, one of the largest of its kind in North Africa, was adjourned until July 30 to allow the defence to prepare closing arguments. A total of 171 fundamentalists are charged in the case, including 34 being tried in absentia. A second military trial, involving 108 fundamentalists charged in the same alleged plot, has been adjourned until July 27. More than 50 of the accused in the two trials could face the death penalty. The defendants, members or supporters of the outlawed fundamentalist group Al Nahda, have denied they plotted the violent overthrow of the government and said they sought peaceful means of expanding opposition political activity. About 30 of the defendants are soldiers. Several defendants testified during the trial that confessions were extracted under torture.

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Iraq media silent on Saddam rumour

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq's official media made no mention of rumours circulating in the Middle East on Tuesday that President Saddam Hussein had been assassinated. Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA), monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation in London, said in a despatch from Kuwait the rumours had spread there but that there was no information confirming them. In Cairo a senior official at the Egyptian presidency said he had no information to support the rumours.

Baker made courtesy call to Shamir

AMMAN (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, whose relations with Israel were rocky when Yitzhak Shamir was in power, made a brief, personal telephone call to the former prime minister during his visit to the Jewish state this week. A senior U.S. official said Mr. Baker told Mr. Shamir he "did not want to be in Israel without saying 'hello'." The call was "totally personal" and Mr. Shamir "said he appreciated it," the official said.

Peres accepts Moscow invitation

TEL AVIV (AP) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has accepted an invitation to go to Moscow soon for talks with his Russian counterpart, a foreign ministry spokesman said. The invitation came from Russian foreign minister Andrei Kozyrev, said the ministry spokesman. He quoted Mr. Peres as saying the meeting would help keep up the momentum of Middle East peacekeeping. No date has been set for the visit.

Drug hauls mount at London airports

LONDON (AP) — Customs agents at London's three airports seized £7.2 million (\$10.8 million) worth of drugs in 1991-92, a 22.5 per cent increase over 1990-91, the customs and excise department said Tuesday. David Chesters, the customs agent in charge of drug seizures at London's Gatwick airport, said agents had discovered cocaine dissolved in bottles of rum and even braided into a woman's hair.

U.N. envoy due in Libya

TUNIS (R) — A senior U.N. envoy is expected in Tripoli on Wednesday ahead of a Security Council review of Libya's alleged role in a Pan Am airliner bombing over Lockerbie in 1988, diplomats in Libya said. U.N. Undersecretary-General Vladimir Petrovsky was scheduled to arrive in Tunisia on Tuesday and travel on to Tripoli by road, the diplomats told Reuters by telephone.

Amman airlift sets Guinness record

NEW DELHI (R) — The emergency airlift of more than 140,000 Indians following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait will be recognised in the 1993 edition of the Guinness Book of World Records, a New Delhi minister said on Tuesday. "Guinness has recognised air India's performance of airlifting over 100,000 stranded Indian nationals from Amman during the period August-October 1990 as a record," Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism Madhavrao Scindia said.

'Yugoslavs' may compete in Olympics

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A Security Council committee on Tuesday authorised participation of individual Yugoslav athletes in the Olympic Games but banned team competition as a violation of U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia, a committee member reported. The committee member, Katsumi Sezaki, told reporters that the U.N. committee administering sanctions against Yugoslavia also decided that the athletes from what is called Yugoslavia would not participate in the opening parade or closing ceremonies.

Baker: All settlements are obstacles to peace

U.S. secretary disagrees with Rabin's definition, but deal seen over loan guarantees

King voices optimism for peace with new government in Israel

By Sana Atiyeh and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Tuesday disagreed with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's classification of Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories as "political" and "security" oriented, and said that Washington considered all settlements as "obstacle to peace."

"We make no differentiation when we say settlements are obstacle to peace," Mr. Baker said at a joint press conference with His Majesty King Hussein after five hours of talks in Amman.

The obvious disagreement with Mr. Rabin, whom Mr. Baker met at least four times Sunday and Monday, was, however, later toned down by the secretary of state.

"Security installations are something that we view differently than settlements," he said and cited to the terms of reference for the peace talks as a basis for this outlook.

"In our opinion (Security Council Resolution) 242 has ingredients that require considerations of Israel's security," he said. "And security installations are something that we distinguish from you might call security settlements."

There are dozens of Israeli military installations, surveillance centres and radar stations in the Jordan Valley as well as other parts of the occupied territories, including Syria's Golan Heights, and Mr. Rabin has said that the "security" settlements he had in mind include these areas as well as occupied Jerusalem.

King Hussein, in his comments at the press conference, did not directly refer to the issue of settlements but pointed out that Jordan's position has always been that Israel should halt all settlement activities in the occupied territories.

"You are obviously aware of our views," he told a reporter.

The King, in his first public comment on prospects for peace with the Rabin government in power in Israel, expressed optimism in the wake of the departure from power of the right-wing government of Yitzhak Shamir.

"I believe that we are on the verge of a generally-viewed effort to see progress towards peace. And hopefully what has been set on track will accelerate towards a very dear objective," the King said.

The King said the Israeli voters' choice of Mr. Rabin as their next prime minister indicated "an interest in facing a historic... crucial moment to finally and hopefully to achieve progress... in bringing to an end long suffering for all concerned for all on either side of the divide — Palestinians, Israelis, Jordanians, and Arabs..."

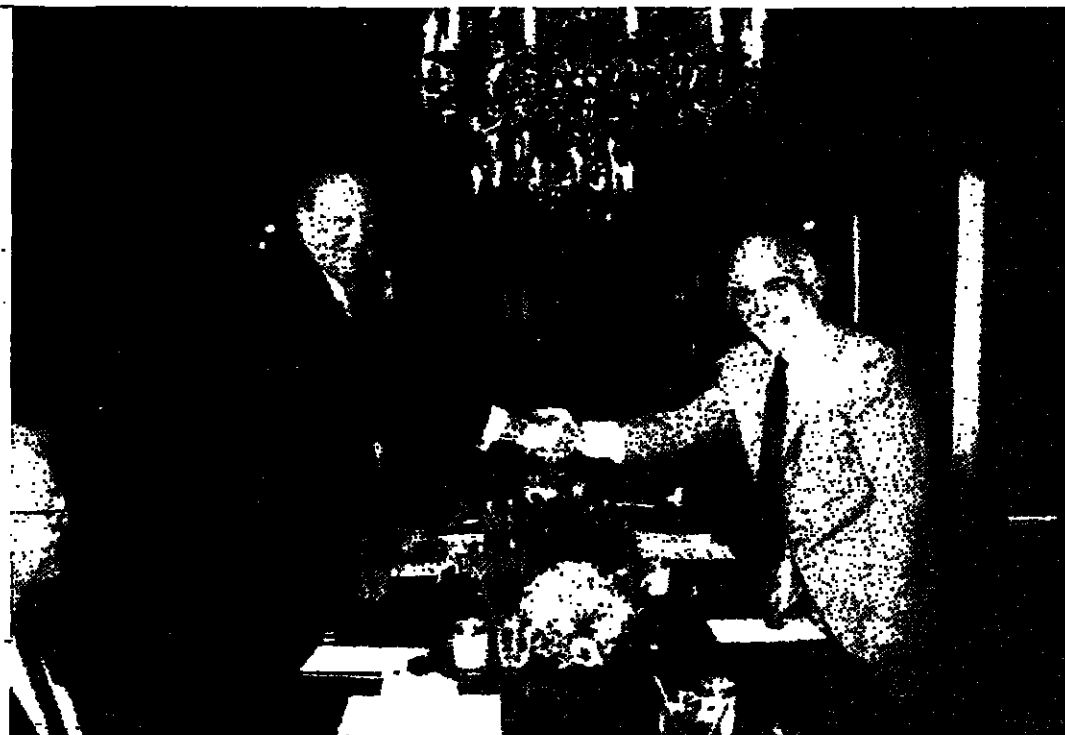
"We are still trying to figure out how we go from here, but there are promising signs and we are very encouraged."

Standing next to the King at the Royal Court press conference, Mr. Baker agreed. "I like to think that there are opportunities now that should be taken advantage of and they will be taken advantage of..."

"We think that the change (in the Israeli government) should offer some opportunity for positive movement forward in the process that we are engaged in, in searching for peace in this region that so badly needs it and so rightly deserves it," he added.

Mr. Baker arrived here after two days of talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories in his first visit to the region in nine months.

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His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at their meeting Tuesday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Alam)

Washington sees 'more effective' enforcement of Iraq sanctions

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Tuesday signalled a possible turn towards easing pressure on Jordan by voicing satisfaction with the King's adherence to the U.N.-imposed trade sanctions against Iraq.

Speaking to reporters at the Royal Palace after a five-hour meeting with His Majesty King Hussein, Mr. Baker stressed what he described as "leakage of products and goods" from Jordan into Iraq had been reduced in the past few weeks.

"In recent days and weeks, we see much stronger and more effective sanctions enforcement," Mr. Baker said standing next to King Hussein. "We see reduced leakage of goods and products across the Jordanian-Iraqi border."

The King, reiterating that Jordan had not deviated from its international commitment in abiding by the United Nations resolutions imposing the sanctions, stressed that Jordan's credibility was "very important to us."

"We continue to do whatever we can within the level of helping the people of Iraq regarding food and medicine, which is permitted under these resolutions," the King said as Mr. Baker nodded his head in agreement.

"But our credibility is very important to us on all levels where we will resist and have resisted putting that in question regarding sanctions-busting," the King added in an obvious explanation of why Jordan rejected an American proposal to station U.N. inspection teams in its territory.

"On the other hand, we are determined to make sure that nobody can point the finger at us and say that we are not living up to our word and to our commitment," he added.

Jordan has been accused by American congressmen as well as by the media of violating the embargo on Iraq, and the proposal to station inspectors in the Kingdom came in wake of such charges, which, many diplomatic sources say, have never been proved beyond reasonable doubt.

Jordanian officials have said that the charges against the Kingdom was a case of selective approach since there are massive sanction-busting across the Iranian, Turkish and Syrian borders.

Mr. Baker conceded that there was "violation of the embargo across 'other' borders of Iraq,"

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Jordan, Germany hold economic talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Germany concluded preliminary talks on bilateral relations and German technical and capital assistance that will be extended to Jordan this year. The talks, which were held at the Ministry of Planning, were chaired on the Jordanian side by Planning Minister Ziad Fariz on the German side by director of the Near East Department at the Ministry of Economic Cooperation. The talks reviewed cooperation between the two countries in various fields and the economic situation in Jordan. Mr. Fariz paid tribute to Germany's technical and capital support for Jordan. In another development, the Cabinet approved Tuesday a loan agreement between the Jordanian government and a German bank. Under the terms of the agreement, the bank will provide for the government a loan worth DM 32 million (about JD 14 million) to finance commodity imports. The Cabinet also decided to authorise the finance minister to sign the agreement. It also approved recommendations by the minister of finance and health to invite tenders to maintain the ministry of health's hospitals in Irbid, Salt, Zarqa, Maan and Mafrq at a total of JD 2,200,000.

Mubarak accepts Rabin's invitation

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak said Tuesday he has accepted an invitation from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to visit Israel and that a new chapter in Egyptian-Israeli relations has begun. Mr. Mubarak also told a news conference held jointly with Mr. Rabin that Egypt and Israel can push forward the Arab-Israeli peace process.

But Mr. Mubarak said more confidence-building is needed from Israel than just a temporary suspension of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Neither he nor Mr. Rabin, who flew to Israel later in the day, mentioned any concrete agreement, saying only that they had exchanged views.

The two leaders spoke after one and a half hours of private talks.

In reply to a question, Mr. Mubarak offered to host bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations, stalled for three months, in Cairo. Mr. Rabin said Israel initially is committed to having the talks resume in Rome but would welcome shifting them to Cairo later.

Mr. Rabin promised after taking office last week to accelerate

the peace talks. He also has pledged to reach an agreement for Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories within nine months from becoming prime minister.

Mr. Mubarak on Tuesday pointed out a need for Israel to move quickly also on a settlement with Syria.

The Mubarak-Rabin summit, the first between Egypt and Israel in six years, was aimed at continuing a process they began in 1979 when they signed a peace treaty.

Mr. Rabin came with the declared intention of seeking Mr. Mubarak's help in injecting a new life into the peace talks that began last October in Madrid, Spain.

Another aim was to improve bilateral ties chilled by Cairo's resentment of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hardline stance on peace issues — his refusal to make territorial concessions and his hurried construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Remarks by the two leaders to

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PLO works on new strategy in peace talks

TUNIS (R) — Senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders met Tuesday to coordinate their response to peace overtures by new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"The leadership must assess the situation after the Israeli elections which created new conditions... to deal with," said PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas before the meeting.

The two-day strategy meeting in Tunis, which began on Monday night, follows talks in occupied Jerusalem on Monday between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories.

PLO leaders are divided over how to react to Mr. Rabin's pledge to reach an agreement with Palestinians in the occupied territories for limited self-rule within a year.

Mr. Rabin has also announced the suspension of new Jewish settlement in the occupied territories.

"There are some positive aspects in what Rabin is saying on elections and interim self-government for Palestinians," said Mr. Abbas, who heads a committee liaising with peace

negotiators from the occupied territories talking with Israel.

"There are issues, like settlements and Jerusalem, we do not agree (with Mr. Rabin) on and could discuss in talks with the Israelis. But let's discuss the first two points (self-rule and elections) to test Rabin who has always talked about them," he added.

Palestinians said Mr. Abbas' views were shared by several other senior PLO officials and had set the tone for the meeting held behind closed doors.

But they said they expected resistance from groups such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) led by George Habash and the Democratic Front for the Liberation (DFLP) of Palestine led by Nayef Hawatmeh.

"Whatever self-rule dispositions taken could not constitute a basis for the instauration of peace," the DFLP wrote in a working paper for the meeting.

The meeting was being attended by PLO Executive Committee members, leaders of the PLO factions and Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, speaker of the Palestine National Council.

State utilities targeted in Algerian confrontation

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Bombs blew up two telephone switching stations Tuesday in eastern Algeria as soldiers continued to hunt a band of armed Islamic extremists.

The bombs near Batna knocked out 2,500 lines of capacity used by state enterprises like Air Algérie, national radio and television, and the natural gas firm Sonagaz, police reported.

Explosives experts disarmed a separate bomb planted outside the Batna office of the Caisse Algérienne d'Assurances, the national insurance company, police reported.

The attacks continued five days of violence that began after Friday prayers with clashes between security forces and Muslim fundamentalists protesting prison terms for seven top leaders.

At least six people have died, including a police chief gunned down Monday in the eastern city of Constantine, according to official media reports. Scores have been arrested.

Security forces trained in counter-terrorism Tuesday continued trying to flush out an armed Islamic band from a forest surrounding the eastern city of Setif, authorities reported.

The AFS news agency reported

Monday that several members of the band had been wounded but gave no details. A gunbattle Saturday killed a leader of the group, according to media reports.

There has been increasing unrest since sentencing last week of the two top leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, to 12 years in prison for fomenting insurrection.

The banned movement has called for sympathisers to express refusal of the verdict "through all legitimate means."

AFS, quoting sources, said security forces had to use their guns to disperse rioters in the Islamic bastion of Hussein-diy, one of at least half of a dozen districts in the city shaken by violence.

Security forces have arrested scores of people among the fundamentalist ranks. Another eight people were detained in 'Ain Defia region, 110 kilometres southwest of Algiers, AFS said.

A former elected FIS mayor in Lakhadaria, hunted since last February when a state of emergency was imposed, surrendered to the gendarmes on Sunday, the agency added.

Military strike said possible against Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — A multinational airstrike against Iraq has become inevitable because of Baghdad's refusal to inspection of a ministry building, according to a Security Council diplomat.

Members of the council generally feel they have no choice but to order a brief airstrike against Iraq to show that the United Nations cannot be toyed with, the source told the AP.

Such a strike would be executed within 10 days and probably would involve U.S., British, French and Saudi cooperation, several diplomats confirmed, the AP reported.

The action would only be ordered if Iraq continues to bar U.N. weapons inspectors from entering the agricultural ministry in Baghdad, the diplomats said. British Ambassador David Hannay said separately and publicly that military action against Iraq had not been ruled out.

A U.S. State Department spokesman said the U.S. would consult other members of the Gulf war coalition on how to resolve the standoff between U.N. arms inspectors and Iraqi officials in Baghdad.

The inspectors have been barred since July 5 from entering the agriculture ministry where the United Nations believes Iraq has hidden military secrets.

"The U.S. is determined to see that Iraq meets all its international obligations under Security Council resolutions. We hold Iraq responsible for the safety of all U.N. personnel in Iraq," spokesman Joseph Snyder told reporters.

"We are consulting with key coalition partners on steps to ensure Iraqi compliance with Security Council resolutions."

Rolf Ekens, head of a special commission set up to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction under the terms of the Gulf war

ceasefire, left Baghdad over the weekend after failing to persuade the Iraqis to allow U.N. inspectors full access to the building.

Any strike would be followed by increased air surveillance of Iraq and expansion of the U.N.-imposed air embargo to bar all Iraqi flights except for relief missions approved on a case-by-case basis, the Security Council diplomat said.

The council diplomat, who attended Monday's closed-door sessions on the Iraqi standoff, said Kuwait has offered use of its air bases, Turkey would make available its Incirlik air base on Iraq's northern border, and Saudi Arabia was offering the use of radar planes for any strike.

Two Security Council diplomats said they felt Baghdad was forcing the United Nations' hand. The council must back up the terms of the Gulf war truce that permit weapons inspectors to search for documents and

weaponry. It cannot capitulate to Iraqi demands to choose particular inspectors or allow other terms of the truce to be so flagrantly disregarded.

The U.N. Security Council was meeting again Tuesday on how to force Iraq to obey its demands.

No ultimatum was issued or deadline set.

In Baghdad waves of demonstrators jeered U.N. inspectors and the government vowed never to let the inspectors enter the building.

"The official press heaped abuse on the inspectors."

"The inspection team shall not enter the building," declared Al Thawra, newspaper of the ruling Baath Party.

"Inspection of the ministry would set a precedent that could be exploited by future inspection teams to trample on the dignity of the country and the people," Al Thawra said.

"killing and wounding several enemy troops."

A statement telephoned by Hizbollah's press office to news organisations in Beirut pledged that the group would "maintain the jihad until the land is liberated."

Security sources in South Lebanon said the initial attacks apparently were aimed at luring the Israelis into sending reinforcements to the northern edge of the "security zone" after the guerrillas had planted a powerful roadside bomb.

The attackers used automatic rifles, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, mortars and Soviet-designed katyusha rockets.

The Israelis, according to the sources, then sent reinforcements in armoured personnel carriers and the guerrillas detonated the bomb.

Truce holds in Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — Fighting subsided in the Afghan capital on Tuesday as a ceasefire took effect, but hundreds of families continued to pour out of Kabul's worst-hit districts.

After three days of heavy shelling, western parts of Kabul were quiet and the government called for a lasting end to the violence that killed scores of people and wounded hundreds.

"From now on anyone who is firing will be opposed by Jihad (government) forces," a source close to President Burhanuddin Rabbani said.

Despite the halt in hostilities between two of the armed factions in Kabul, hundreds of families were still streaming out of the worst-affected districts to safety.

At least 100 people have been killed and more than 500 wounded in fighting this week between Hezb-e-Wahdat, a mostly Shiite guerrilla coalition financed by Iran, and the orthodox Ittihad-e-Islami supporters by Saudi Arabia and underground Arab groups.

The barrage of rockets subsided Monday night, and the city became quiet again with a government-brokered truce.

But most residents in the western and southern suburbs, where most of the fighting occurred, were convinced the lull was only temporary.

Beginning at dawn, hundreds of families bundled their clothes and pots and pans in blankets and rolled up their crimson carpets and loaded them on to buses and trucks and headed towards the hills that ring the city. Most walked beside the vehicles; many

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli soldier killed, five wounded in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — One Israeli soldier was killed and five were wounded in South Lebanon Tuesday when a bomb planted by guerrillas exploded under an Israeli tank, security sources said.

The sources, quoted by Reuters, said five civilians were later wounded when Israeli gunners bombarded seven villages in retaliation for the bombing and three other guerrilla attacks in Israel "security zone" in the south.

They said the bomb exploded beneath the tank at a crossroads near the villages of Beit Yahoun and Braachit, killing one soldier and wounding three, as Israeli patrols were combing the area for guerrillas.

Sources quoted by the Associated Press only said four soldiers were wounded.

The bombing followed raids by guerrillas firing machineguns and anti-tank rockets on positions manned by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia near Braachit and Beit Yahoun.

Guerrillas also fired rockets into the village of Houla deep inside the "security zone" two kilometres west of the Israeli border. There were no SLA casualties, the sources added.

The Israeli army confirmed that one Israeli soldier was killed and five were wounded in two guerrilla attacks in South Lebanon.

Israel withheld reports of the incidents for about 12 hours.

The army announcement said Israeli artillery retaliated against "guerrilla targets north of the security zone."

An Israeli military source, who

insisted on anonymity, said there has been an increase in guerrilla activity in the "security zone" in recent days and blamed Hizbollah for the upsurge.

The army statement said the first incident occurred before dawn when an army unit operating in Beit Yahoun came under fire.

"The guerrillas, who were in several squads, fired light weapons, rocket-propelled grenades and LAW (anti-tank) missiles," the army said.

One soldier died and three were wounded, one moderately and two lightly, the announcement said.

The other unit was hit with a roadside explosive, injuring two "very lightly," it added.

Hizbollah said its fighters fought a "heroic battle" against Israeli troops in South Lebanon

Lebanese hold on to their weapons despite ultimatum

BEIRUT (R) — A government deadline for Lebanese to surrender tens of thousands of weapons expired on Tuesday but only a handful of civilians handed in submachineguns, rifles and pistols.

"I don't plan to use my gun but I'll never give it up. Guns are considered men's jewellery here," said a 31-year-old banker who owns a U.S.-made M-16 rifle and asked only to be identified as Khalil.

President Elias Hrawi's government gave the Lebanese one month to hand over their private arsenals to the army before Tuesday having disarmed the country's private armies last year.

Military sources said only a handful of civilians had come forward and given up their arms. The army from Tuesday has one month to storm hideouts, suspicious places and search cars to seize all light arms.

The sources said that troops would soon move across most of the country to seize all arms before the first general election in 20 years which is expected in late August or early September.

"How can the government ask us to hand over our weapons while we still don't feel safe?"



Elias Hrawi

said Darwish, 57, a Beirut taxi driver and father of nine who owns a Soviet-made AK-47 rifle.

"I have children. Who will protect them from thieves and gangsters? The government can't do it, but I can," he added.

Mr. Hussein, 34, said he refused to surrender his AK-47 because was not sure Lebanon's civil war which ended in 1990 was over for good. Thousands of rioters toppled the government on May 6.

"In the past we thought it was

over and abandoned our guns only to return to them later. Why should it be different this time?" said Hussein, adding that his rifle was well-hidden in his home.

The sources said the army was gathering information and would storm militia caches before looking for tens of thousands of submachineguns, rifles, pistols and revolvers in civilian hands.

The disbanded militia were ordered last year to hand over heavy and medium weapons but were allowed to keep light arms.

In another move to prepare the ground for polls, tank-led troops returned on Monday to devastated villages in mountains south-east of Beirut to allow refugees to return home.

Tens of thousands of civilians fled their homes in the Shouf Mountains during battles with fighters in 1983.

Opponents of the elections are demanding that all displaced people return to their homes before the polls. The government is expected to set a date for the election this week.

But the army's deployment is widely seen as insufficient as most of the villages were virtually flattened and many refugees cannot afford to rebuild houses even if they dare to return.



BAKER MISSION: His Majesty King Hussein chair Jordanian-American talks on the Middle East peace process (Petra photo)

More Iraqi nuclear facilities destroyed

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has destroyed under U.N. supervision buildings and equipment at two sites intended for its nuclear programme, a weapons inspection team leader said on Monday.

The wrecking of four buildings at each site with explosives and power drills stripped Iraq of its last potential to develop a nuclear bomb using electromagnetic isotope separation (EMIS), Richard Hooper, a expert from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), told reporters.

The demolition job was carried out in the past few days, unaffected by Iraq's dispute with other U.N. inspectors demanding access to the agriculture ministry in Baghdad under the ceasefire terms which ended the 1991 Gulf war.

The nuclear sites were at Tarmiya 50 kilometres north of the capital and Al Shergat 300 kilometres to the northwest. "We finished for the most part activities regarding rendering harmless the EMIS sites," Mr. Hooper said. EMIS is a way of enriching uranium to a level needed for a nuclear bomb.

"Three of four buildings at each site were for power. EMIS requires quite large amounts of power," said Mr. Hooper, an American who leads a 13-member team.

Asked how well Iraq cooperated, Mr. Hooper, 50, said, "Superb. No problems whatsoever."

Asked whether there were still unanswered questions about Iraq's nuclear programme, Mr. Hooper said, "I think for the most part the programme is very consistently understood."

Gaps in the picture mostly concerned centrifuges, another method of enriching uranium. "We've not been able to verify the supplier, amounts of material and other things," he said.

Iraq has refused to tell the U.N. who assisted in building its nuclear programme.

U.N. inspectors have scoured Iraq in the belief that it may be concealing centrifuges and an underground plutonium reactor.

Asked whether he still thought Iraq had a hidden plutonium reactor, Mr. Hooper said, "It is an avenue that we have looked at and we have no inspection data to support that."

Baker may also jumpstart Bush's reelection campaign

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State James Baker — in the Middle East to jumpstart Mideast peace talks — has fanned speculation that he might resign to do the same thing for President George Bush's reelection campaign.

In fact, rumours range from Mr. Baker leaving his post at the conclusion of his Mideast trip next week to Mr. Baker replacing Vice-President Dan Quayle on the ticket, which has been denied by top strategists.

Still, the signs point to a potential Baker departure:

The State Department's Margaret Tutwiler is on the Mideast trip — but so is deputy spokesman Richard Boucher, who would step in if Mr. Tutwiler accompanied Mr. Baker to the White House. Also expected to leave with Mr. Baker: top aides Dennis Ross, Robert Zoellick and Grace Mos.

Mr. Bush campaign officials and top Republicans refused to rule out the possibility of Mr. Baker joining the campaign.

White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater told questioners Monday the administration is "hopeful" that Baker's latest Middle East peace mission is making progress toward a settlement.

"The secretary continues to explore specific possibilities" for additional progress, Mr. Fitzwater said. "I think we have some

optimism." He added that Mr. Baker found "a good atmosphere" for the negotiations.

Mr. Fitzwater dismissed as speculation reports that Mr. Baker has informed Israeli officials that this will be his last trip to the area since he will be leaving to help the Bush reelection campaign.

He said "no changes have been announced" for the White House staff or the campaign, adding, "anyone is welcome to speculate." The Baker-Bush conversations at the secretary's Wyoming ranch, he said, "are private. There are no changes to report."

Mr. Baker has confirmed he and the president discussed the election campaign, but he has given no details. Mr. Fitzwater told a questioner he did not know if there is "precedent" for a cabinet official taking a leave of absence to join a campaign effort. Part of the published speculation suggests Mr. Baker would prefer to take leave so as to be able to return to State the day after the election, rather than to resign.

Asked if either the White House or the campaign "needs the kind of leadership" Mr. Baker would supply, Mr. Fitzwater replied: "We think we have excellent leadership. The campaign is going well and the secretary is doing a heck of a job in the Middle East."

Mandela in Tehran, thanks Iran for opposing apartheid

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Nelson Mandela arrived in Tehran Tuesday and thanked Iran for helping South Africa's blacks in the struggle against apartheid, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said.

Iran, which often refers to itself as the defender of the world's oppressed people, has been among the most outspoken Middle Eastern countries in condemning apartheid.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati welcomed the black South African leader at the airport and praised him, adding "we shall support his indefatigable struggle."

"We are here to thank the Iranian government and nation for their support in the black people's struggle against apartheid," Mr. Mandela was quoted as saying by IRNA.

In a headline speech before the U.N. Security Council last week, Mr. Mandela accused the white South African government of orchestrating a campaign of terror to crush multiracial democracy and called for the dispatching of U.N. observers to the country.

IRNA said that during his visit

Mr. Mandela will confer with President Hashemi Rafsanjani, Mr. Velayati and Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Ali Larijani. On Wednesday, he was to be awarded an honorary doctorate by Tehran University.

On Monday, Mr. Mandela met King Fahd of Saudi Arabia during a visit to the kingdom.

The 46-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has assured Mr. Mandela it will support his campaign for black majority rule in South Africa.

The OIC, which represents the world's Muslims, said the assurance was given by its Secretary-General Hamid Al Ghabid who met Mr. Mandela in Jeddah, where the 45-nation body is based.

Mr. Ghabid urged Pretoria's white rulers to remove all obstacles "which hinder the finalisation of a non-racial democratic constitution acceptable to all the people of South Africa," said the OIC statement sent to Reuters.

The United Nations decided last week to send an envoy to South Africa to help restart power sharing talks and put an end to township violence there.

Iran expels British diplomat

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has ordered the third secretary at the British embassy in Tehran to leave the country within a month because of actions "violating diplomatic norms," the Iranian news agency IRNA said on Tuesday.

IRNA quoted an "informed source" at the Iranian Foreign Ministry for the expulsion of Geoffrey Brammer, but did not say when he was ordered out or specify his alleged offence.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London said on Monday Britain had strongly protested to Iran over the detention of Mr. Brammer by security officials in Tehran for several hours on Jan 17.

IRNA quoted the Iranian source as saying Iran's relations with other countries were based on mutual respect, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and respect for international conventions.

Iran would never tolerate a breach of these principles, the source said.

He added that the British government had been asked to notify its diplomats to observe these principles, IRNA said.

The Foreign Office spokesman said Mr. Brammer was arrested after completing a game of squash with an Iranian pilot with whom he had made friends. It was alleged he had formed the friendship as part of a plan to spy on Iran. He was not mistreated.

The spokesman said the Iranian charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office on June 18 to receive a protest and a demand for an apology and an explanation.

The incident was not made public at the time "because we did not want to exacerbate the situation," he said.

Britain and Iran restored diplomatic relations in September 1990 after an 18-month break over British writer Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses."

Tehran had denounced the book and in February 1989 Iran's late leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a call for Mr. Rushdie to be killed for blaspheming Islam. The call has not been revoked.

Amnesty says Syria holds thousands without trial

LONDON (R) — Human rights group Amnesty International said on Wednesday that Syria holds thousands of political prisoners without trial despite efforts to clean up its human rights record.

Syria released some 2,000 prisoners at the end of last year, but this still left thousands in detention, some of whom are tortured or die in custody in violation of their human rights, Amnesty said in a statement.

It urged Syria to set up an independent body to investigate torture and deaths in custody, and to free unconditionally any prisoners held without trial.

"Despite the welcome releases, nothing has been done to end the grave violations of political prisoners' rights which have persisted in Syria for nearly 30 years," it said.

"The presidential pardons

granted in the last seven months do not redeem the country's record on human rights."

Amnesty said state of emergency legislation allows for the indefinite detention of prisoners without charges or trial of anyone "endangering security and public order."

It said several thousand people had been held under these laws, some for more than two decades. Some doctors and engineers held since a one-day strike more than 11 years ago were still thought to be in detention, the report said.

"Amnesty International is urging the Syrian government to establish an independent body to investigate torture and deaths in custody, to free immediately and unconditionally all prisoners of conscience and to release other political detainees if they are not given prompt, fair trials."

Somali premier asks for 10,000 U.N. peacekeepers

GENEVA (R) — The prime minister of Somalia's interim government appealed on Monday for the United Nations to send 10,000 peacekeeping troops to help restore law and order in his country.

Omar Arteh Ghalib, who serves under self-styled interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammad, told a news conference he did not want the U.N. "Blue Berets" to take sides in the factional fighting "but simply to maintain peace and order."

"I appeal to the United Nations and friendly governments to help us," he declared. "I would like to request 10,000 peacekeepers. Knowing our Somali people, they are very tough, and therefore very tough action is needed."

Somalia has been torn by tribal and factional conflict for several months after opposition groups, who combined to oust former dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in early 1991, fell out among themselves.

The fighting has devastated the capital Mogadishu and other areas of the country have been badly hit. At least 30,000 people have died, many of them children, and one in six of the 7.2 million population are refugees.

Earlier on Monday, a U.N.

official in Nairobi said the warring factions had agreed to the deployment of a 47-man military observer force in Mogadishu, a once-flourishing port and market city.

"The observers will be in Somalia within a week," Carlton James senior U.N. information officer, told Reuters.

They will monitor a ceasefire agreed nearly five months ago but often broken by street fighting. Their deployment is seen by relief workers as a major step towards returning a semblance of order to a nation torn apart by 18 months of civil war.

Mr. James said agreement was reached after talks between U.N. special envoy Mohammad Sahnoun and "all parties concerned with restoring peace."

One of Somalia's warring faction chiefs had blocked deployment of the U.N. observers to protest against a cargo of banknotes ferried to an opponent by an aircraft once leased by the United Nations for mercy flights.

Mohammad Farah Aided, warden of southern Mogadishu, said the money would bolster his rival, President Ali Mahdi.

At his Geneva news conference, Prime Minister Ghalib blamed Aided for the bloodshed over the past few months.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

sun 27, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 55 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Al Sharrah 638878
Dr. Bassam Khatib 796200
Dr. Khaled Hakeem 796322
Dr. Saad Abu Harab 649846
First pharmacy 661912
Rafidun pharmacy 778336
Al Aszina pharmacy 677055
Nairoba pharmacy 636072
Al Salam pharmacy 644945
Yacoub pharmacy 637660
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Al Qasbi (—)
Al Sharrah pharmacy (275825)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ziad Ju'aitim (—)
Khulid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 865970
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 628900
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephones 623101
Jordan Television 773111
Jordan Radio 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200

HOSPITALS

Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Jabal Amman Maternity 642862
Mellah, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 66471714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital 6672279
Queen Alia Hospital 6224030
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Islamic, Al-Muhajirun 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
St. Mary's 891611/15
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Hikam Modern Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)500560
Rin Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikam Modern Hospital (09)986730
IRBID:
Princess Beama Hospital (02)275535
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27225
St. Al-Nefes Hospital (02)27100
AQABA:
Princess Baya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (05)53200-5 where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

18:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
18:30 Jeddah (RJ)
18:30 Larissa (RJ)
18:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
18:30 London (RJ)
17:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
18:25 Istanbul (RJ)
18:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:30 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
19:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:45 Rome (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
08:00 Damascus (SY)
08:15 Beirut (LB)
12:00 Tunis (TN)
13:00 Jeddah (SU)

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Le Monde est a vous
18:30 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Saved by the Bell
21:00 Wednesday Forum
21:30 Man of the People
22:00 News in English
22:30 Tell Me About You

PRAYER TIMES

06:11 Fajr
05:41 (Sunrise) Duha
12:42 Dhuhr
16:23 Asr
19:45 Maghrib
21:13 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assistance of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772661
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assian International Church Tel. 653326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675091

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and some clouds will appear as low stratus, while winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 16 / 27
Aqaba 23 / 35
Decatur 15 / 30
Jordan Valley 22 / 34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli police arrest Jews who pull gun

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police on Monday arrested five Jews after one of them pointed a gun at Arabs outside a building where Palestinians were briefing reporters about their meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. As Palestinian leaders held the news conference in East Jerusalem's Hakawati Theatre, a squabble erupted between members of the anti-Arab Kach movement and Palestinians waiting outside. Kach leader Itan Pollak then pointed his Uzi submachine gun at the Palestinians. Reporters and Palestinians crowded around Pollak. Police arrived and arrested Pollak along with four other Jewish militants. "Police took all the Kach people away and arrested them," a police spokeswoman said. Police on Sunday said they had information that Kach, one of the most extreme Israeli right-wing groups, planned to attack Mr. Baker. On Tuesday, Kach activists trying to set up a new settlement in the occupied West Bank were ousted by troops.

Rebels kill 10 Turkish soldiers

DIYARBAKIR (AP) — Turkish Kurdish rebels, infiltrating at night from sanctuaries in Iraq, killed 10 Turkish soldiers near the border town of Cizre, an official said Tuesday. The separatist rebels returned to Iraq after attacking the soldiers, guarding the perimeter of an army post at Sivritepe, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The guerrillas are from the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK), fighting for self rule since 1984 in northeastern Turkey where about half of the country's 12 million Kurds live. More than 4,100 insurgents, soldiers and civilians have died in the fighting. To dislodge the PKK guerrillas from their mountain bases across the border, Turkish jets have repeatedly bombed northern Iraq despite protests from the Iraqi Kurds. Iraqi Kurdish guerrilla groups, themselves locked in a struggle with Baghdad for self-rule, say they do not provide backing to the PKK, but decline to use force to evict them from Iraq.

Algeria names Ghazali as ambassador to France

ALGIERS (R) — Former Prime Minister Sidahmad Ghazali has been appointed as Algeria's new ambassador to France, an official source said on Tuesday. The source confirmed a report in the Algerian daily newspaper Al Watan. Mr. Ghazali resigned as prime minister this month following the assassination of head of state Mohammed Boudiaf on June 29. He became prime minister in June last year and was replaced by Abdul Salam Belaid on July 8. Mr. Ghazali, who replaces Smail Hamdani as ambassador, was an ambassador to Brussels in the 1980s before becoming finance minister in 1988 and foreign minister the following year.

Lebanese traders strike in Sierra Leone

FREETOWN (R) — Sierra Leone's Lebanese traders closed their businesses in the capital's main shopping street at the weekend after a Lebanese shopkeeper was beaten by a soldier, locals said Monday. They said the shopkeeper was hospitalized after a fight with a soldier who went into his store. The 15,000-strong Lebanese community dominate the country's commercial sector. They are widely resented by Sierra Leoneans who blame them for the corruption and smuggling that has bled the country of its natural mineral wealth. When a new military government led by Captain Valentine Strasser seized power in an April coup looters targeted Lebanese businesses before a curfew was installed. With a state of emergency still in force in the wake of the coup, Freetown is teeming with young soldiers.

U.N. regrets murder of Israeli

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali expressed regrets on Monday at the death of an Israeli U.N. staff member killed by armed robbers in Nairobi. Avi Rappaport, 51, on the staff of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) since 1990, was shot on Sunday as he stopped his car to buy fruit outside the national museum and died in hospital on Monday. He leaves a wife and three children. "The secretary-general deeply regrets the murder of a devoted staff member and has conveyed his heartfelt condolences and those of all his colleagues to Mrs. Rappaport and to the government of Israel," a U.N. spokesman said. The United Nations had contacted the Kenyan government, the spokesman added. Giving details of the incident, he said the robbers demanded that Mr. Rappaport hand over the keys to his car. "In the ensuing commotion, a shot was fired which struck Mr. Rappaport in the head. He passed away on Monday."

UAE court sets public execution for rapists

ABU DHABI (R) — The Abu Dhabi Sharia court Monday decreed public execution for two men convicted of rape and other crimes. In a statement carried by the official Emirates News Agency (WAM), the court said it would use "a pre-ordained method and implement it in a public place." It gave no further details about the execution. The Sharia court on Saturday sentenced the two men to death for the kidnapping and rape of an Indian woman and her two teenage daughters in the desert in May. In Monday's statement the court said the two men were responsible for the death of the woman's 75-year-old mother, who died after witnessing the rape. A legal source at the court said on Saturday the death sentence was subject to confirmation by the federal high court within one month. If confirmed, the men are likely to be shot.

Iran paper says diplomats smuggling antiques

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iranian newspaper said Tuesday that foreign diplomats were smuggling precious antiques out of the country and called for international regulations to ensure such items are returned to their owners, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency, quoted the English-language Kayhan International as saying that "cultural robbery has been a well-established tradition for some foreign diplomats. No one knows for sure how much worth of antiques have been illegally taken out of Iran by either diplomatic pouches or antique smugglers." The daily said hundreds of antiques were confiscated last week from an unidentified Italian diplomat before they could be smuggled to Turkey. It was the only incident specified by the newspaper, although there have been previous reports of Turkish diplomatic pouches being seized in smuggling.

بازار آزاد

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King sends condolences to Assad

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable of condolences to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, in which he expressed his deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences over the death of his mother. King Hussein delegated His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Al Hussein and Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thagoun Al Hindawi to take part in the funeral of the late mother of President Assad and to offer condolences to President Assad on behalf of King Hussein and the Jordanian people and government.

JNRCS condemns Israel

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) condemned Tuesday a decision by the Israeli occupation authorities banning the selling of West Bank manufactured medicine in occupied Jerusalem. JNRCS President Ahmad Abu Oura said in memoranda sent to the secretary general of the Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Chairman of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the secretary general of the International League of the Red Cross that this decision will affect nine pharmaceutical factories in the West Bank and one in Gaza Strip. Dr. Abu Oura said these factories, which produce more than 750 kinds of medicine, employ hundreds of Arab pharmacists, technicians and labourers. He added that any such decision will have its negative impact on the Arab economy in the occupied territories.

Guide book for registering land

AMMAN (Petra) — The Land Registration and Survey Department has prepared a citizens' guidebook which deals with all procedures that should be followed when registering a piece of land at the department. Director of the Department Ali Al Ghazaleh said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that this guidebook will be helpful to citizens selling or buying pieces of land. It explains ways of recognizing authorities in this field, exchanging pieces of land and renting them for a limited period of time, he said. He added that the guidebook will enable people to finish their work at the department in the shortest possible time and will save citizens and employees at the department efforts.

490,000 citizens visit Irbid health centres

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 490,000 citizens have called at health centres in the Irbid governorate during the first half of this year, according to Irbid Health Department Director Ma'in Al Ghoul. Mr. Ghoul said of the total number only 65 per cent needed treatment. He said his department's health inspectors have made 44,000 field visits to various establishments and stores. As a result of these visits, 48 stores were closed down and 5,224 were fined or issued warnings for violation of health and public safety regulations, he said. Mr. Ghoul added that the department has also examined 3,025 water samples from various parts of the governorate and found 70 samples of polluted water. These samples, he said, were re-examined to determine the causes of the pollution and to work on preventing it.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Performance by Yarmouk University Coral Group at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.
- ★ Arabic poetry recital at the Royal Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "Will a Political Settlement Lead to Israeli Economic Domination in the Arab World?" by Dr. Hani Al Shumari, from the occupied West Bank, at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. — 6 p.m.

CBJ eases export financing regulations

AMMAN (Petra) — An official source at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) announced Tuesday that the bank has amended its regulations on export financing to Jordanians can enter new markets despite fierce competition and can lower their production costs.

According to the source, the main amendments were:

- Lowering interest rates on export credits to an annual five per cent, to run at 3.5 per cent below the re-discount rate.
- Raising the ceiling of ex-

port credit financing from 60 per cent of the value of export letter of credit to 70 per cent of the value;

— Raising the ceiling of export credit financing against export bills under collection on drafts from 80 per cent to 90 per cent;

— Lowering the added value percentage on Jordanian products to qualify for export credit financing from 40 per cent to 25 per cent.

The amendments, said CBJ, take effect from Aug. 1, 1992.

By-election voter cards to be distributed tomorrow

MADABA (J.T.) — A committee in charge of distributing voter cards and supervising by-elections in the sixth constituency, which includes Madaba and Dhiban, south of Amman will start distributing cards tomorrow, to voters in the region, a process which will continue until August 10.

District Governor Mislak Al Tarawneh, who heads the elections committee in the two areas, said that the cards were ready for distribution and that 30 centres in schools have been assigned as voting centres.

Mr. Tarawneh, who met the committee members, gave instructions about applying regulations related to the voting process. Earlier this month, the Ministry of Interior took practical

steps in the course of preparing for the by-elections that would be held on August 18 to choose two members for the Lower House of Parliament to replace deputies Ahmad Azaidh and Nayef Al Hadid, who died late June and early July, respectively.

Two committees charged with preparing and supervising the by-elections were sworn before the minister of interior, following a decision by the council of ministers to hold the by-elections to fill the vacant seats.

There are 33,114 voters in the sixth constituency who will cast ballots at the 30 centres supervised by 33 committees. District governor, in each constituency will be responsible for the by-elections and charged with voter cards in their areas.



Land being cultivated in the Jordan Valley.

300,000 dunums of land cultivated for produce

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture Fayez Khasawneh said Tuesday that Jordan has 300,000 dunums of cultivable land producing food.

Jordan has huge natural resources represented in the Jordan Valley, an area with rich soil and regarded as a vast greenhouse for the production of citrus fruit and vegetables of all kinds, said the minister at a meeting with a 25-member group of medical university students representing the Oliviant Conference of Belgium (OCB).

The minister said that agriculture is considered the main source of income for the country and is regarded as the backbone for the economy.

Jordan's agriculture is unique since the country can produce crops at a time when there is a great demand for the agricultural products and when no other areas produce them, the minister said.

Referring to the importance of the Agricultural Extension Service, affiliated with the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Khasawneh said that the extension staff is qualified to help promote agricultural production in the country and to guide farmers on the best and most up to date means of producing high quality products.

Dr. Khasawneh reviewed agricultural development in Jordan and the ministry's plans and projects.

Controversy hits formation of panel to investigate JPA corruption case

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Controversy surrounds the formation of an investigation panel to examine a corruption case involving JD160,000 from the Jordanian Pharmaceutical Association (JPA) Fund.

While the JPA's General Assembly advocates the formation of an investigation panel, the JPA's council rejects its formation, on the grounds that the formation falls within the prerogative of the council and not the general assembly.

After a heated debate, a five member committee, headed by pharmacist Fathi Al Biss, was formed and it will hold a meeting on July 26.

Mr. Al Biss said the committee

has started work, but the council has not cooperated with it.

Based on this, a number of JPA's general assembly members crystallised their position in a memo, which they sent to the council.

The memo said the council's postponement of the general assembly meeting is holding an extraordinary meeting next Friday was not valid.

JPA President Husam Eddin Mismar said there was no decision on the formation of the committee, adding that it was a mere suggestion.

Mr. Mismar described the committee as illegal and warned against holding any meetings outside the JPA.

He concluded that nobody was entitled to talk on behalf of the general assembly except the JPA.

Education Ministry prepares studies to build 57 schools

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education Projects and School Buildings General Directorate has started preparing studies and tender documents to build 57 schools in various parts of the kingdom.

The director of the projects and schools buildings at the ministry, Abdul Razzaq Al Maani, said that it is expected to have these schools constructed before the end of 1992.

Mr. Maani said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that this project is the third stage of a ministry plan which aims to build 430 schools around the Kingdom.

constructed as part of the first stage of the plan. The plan also entails adding 1,370 classrooms to 365 schools at a total cost of JD 13 million, he added.

According to Mr. Maani, the plan is designed in the first place to rid the ministry of rented buildings used as schools and to end the two-period school system adopted in many schools.

Mr. Maani said that the ministry is currently working on adding laboratories, libraries, auditoriums and vocational training halls to 52 schools. He added that the ministry has already started an investment venture in Aqaba at a total cost of JD 500,000.



Somali refugees in Yemen thank Jordan for food relief (WFP/Mitchell)

Somali refugees thank Jordan for food relief

AMMAN — Somali refugees who sought haven in Yemen said Tuesday that Jordan was the first Arab country, apart from Yemen, to extend relief supplies since fleeing from the civil war in their African country.

In interviews with Jordan Television, the Somalis said they arrived in Yemen with no possessions nor money, and were grateful for Yemen and Jordan for their assistance.

The television report said that at least 69,000 Somalis are now being housed in five camps set up by the Yemeni authorities. A shipment of 16 tonnes of medical and food supplies and equipment reached Yemen aboard a Jordanian transport plane.

The gift was organised by the Jordanian Hashemite Charitable Organisation (JHCO) in cooperation with the Health Ministry and the private sector in Jordan.

According to JHCO secretary general Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, the shipment was ordered by His Majesty King Hussein noting that a similar shipment will soon be heading to the war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina to relieve the local population and to bring back Jordanian families and students wishing to return home.

The JHCO has already sent out relief supplies to Sudan, Bangladesh, Chechen-Ingush and Bosnia Herzegovina.

Abbadi issued a strong appeal to the public in Jordan to contribute generously towards this noble cause.

The plight of Somalis to Yemen came amidst a tribal civil war that has already claimed the lives of tens of thousands; and UN officials say that 2,000 to 3,000 children are probably dying of malnutrition every day.

Gardens Street opens

By Maha Adadas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Wasfi Tal Martyr Street in Shmeisani has opened, allowing traffic in both directions.

The 100,000 m² street, also known as the Gardens Street, originally notorious for its ruts and bumps has finally been repaired, "for the last time, once and for all with all the previous mistakes corrected," said the engineer supervising the repairs at Gardens Street, Haytham Jweinat.

"The Greater Amman Municipality inherited the Gardens Street in 1977 from the Tia's Al AE Municipality and this is the first time ever that the street is repaired right from the foundation," Mr. Jweinat said, adding that the area of the street makes it a record area in terms of public sector projects.

He said that before the project to repair the street was started, an announcement was made to local

residents who needed to expand their water-pipe systems which required connection to pipes running beneath the street.

"These residents had their chance but now that the street only has the surface layer left before it becomes complete, there is no way that any digging will be allowed beneath the street," Mr. Jweinat said.

According to a source at the Greater Amman Municipality, the Gardens Street will cost JD 1,000,000 upon completion.

"That figure includes the cost of lighting the streets, which will take place soon," the source said.

Supply ministry defends its choice of Egyptian rice

AMMAN — The Ministry of Supply Tuesday issued a statement clarifying points raised by Al Ra'i columnist Fakhri Kawar about flour and rice used by households in the Kingdom.

It defended its choice of these commodities for local consumption.

The ministry, which imports food stuffs for the Jordanian markets, said that it does not import flour but does import wheat, part of which comes from the United States.

The flour, sold to bakeries, is of the best kind and makes excellent bread, compared with similar kinds in neighbouring Arab coun-

tries. However, the type of bread bought from different bakeries are different even though the flour used is the same, said the statement published in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday.

The writer had conveyed the public's complaints about the kind of flour and bread available for consumption, noting that it is the worst kind. The ministry said that its inspection teams are continually visiting bakeries to ensure that they abide by the regulations and they take samples of bread and flour for examination.

Khasawneh stresses need to ease cow farm problems

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Fayez Khasawneh Tuesday stressed the need for supporting dairy farms and addressing their problems and needs. At a meeting with members of the cow breeders society in Duleil, Dr. Khasawneh said the formation of a higher milk council, in which farmers can participate, should pass through certain channels before seeing light.

Chairman of the Cow Breeders Society in Zarqa governorate reviewed the establishment of the society, saying that it groups 144 members. He pointed out that

the cow farms in Zarqa governorate produce 85 tonnes of milk a day, including a surplus of 12 tonnes.

He called for finding a solution to the surplus milk and for organising the importation of cows, providing green fodder and vaccines.

A number of farmers called for adhering a cabinet decision, banning the importation of milk powder, and asked dairy and ice cream factories to use fresh milk.

They also called for providing support to farmers and for channelling subsidies to cow farms.

Temporary newsprint shortage shortchanges Jordanian readers

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian newspaper readers this week started getting less news for their money due to severe shortages of newsprint that are expected to last until the beginning of August.

The Jordan Press Foundation will alter the packaging of its Arabic daily Al Ra'i, making the newspaper more cumbersome to read because of the use of more single sheets, while the Jordan Press and Publication Company has already cut down the number of pages of the Ad Dustour Arabic daily.

The problem was triggered by the diversion of a ship that was carrying newsprint to Jordan by naval forces stationed at the Gulf of Aqaba to enforce the international trade embargo against Iraq, newspaper and shipping sources told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

Australian naval forces intercepted the Bahaman-registered ship, Proso, on July 3 and forced it to sail to Yemen on July 5 because of the inaccessibility of parts of its cargo to inspectors, said shipping sources that requested not to be named.

The ship, which was expected to dock at Aqaba port by the end of June, then left the Yemeni port of Hudaybiyah to Dubai in mid-July and its Jordan-bound cargo was loaded on the Russian-flagged Pioneer Litvy.

Shipping sources said the ship would leave Dubai Wednesday and is scheduled to reach Aqaba Port on July 31.

Management sources at ATRKY said that they had received assurances from the ministries of foreign affairs and information that Pioneer Litvy will be allowed to sail to Aqaba but the company is trying to secure newsprint from neighbouring countries in case any new complications develop.

They said their efforts to import newsprint from neighbouring countries had failed and will have to reduce the number of pages if their shipment of 500 tonnes of newsprint does not arrive in time.

Neighbouring countries that could sell newsprint to Jordan are Egypt, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia. Egypt and Lebanon did not have newsprint for export and "Saudi authorities did not allow Saudi companies to sell" the needed material to Jordan, said sources at Al Ra'i, which prints 90,000 copies a day.

The general manager of Jordan Press and Publication Company, Seif Al Sherif, said that Ad Dustour, which had 1,000 tonnes of newsprint on board the Proso, succeeded in securing 100 tonnes of newsprint from a neighbouring country. Ad Dustour is not considering reducing the number of copies it prints, said Mr. Sherif. He said 85,000 copies of the paper are printed daily.

Mr. Sherif, who also received assurances that the new ship will not be intercepted, said that drastic measures might have to be taken if his company does not receive its newsprint by the end of the month.

Jordan imports all its newsprints from abroad, mainly Cana-

da, the United States and Scandinavian countries. The delayed shipment was purchased from the United States.

Jordanian news organisations can store enough newsprint to keep the presses rolling for three months. Al Ra'i management sources said they cannot store more because their stores are not equipped to keep the material in good conditions for a longer period.

Both shipping and news organisations sources ruled out political pressure as the motives for diverting the ship.

Shipping sources said the Australian navy forced the ship, to change its route when it could not inspect one of the ship's four cargo holds. Inspectors could not search the cargo in the fourth hold of the ship because there were no passage ways between the containers loaded in it. The shipment was not bound for Jordan.

The sources said the inspectors turned down an offer to seal the hatch and inspect the ship when it leaves Aqaba as a guarantee that the hatch would not be opened in Jordan.

United Nations' forces stationed in the Gulf of Aqaba had earlier intercepted and diverted many ships bound for Jordan, thus causing many delays and inconveniences for Jordanian businesses, shipping sources said.

They said the diversion of the Proso could result in additional costs and could lead to loss of customers who might blame the shipping company for the delay.

1,286 kilos of drugs seized in first-half of '92, PSD stresses drug awareness

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the anti-narcotic department at the Public Security Department (PSD) Brigadier Izzuddin Zaza said his teams have seized 1,286 kilograms of hashish and heroine and 182,000 tablets of narcotic drugs during the first half of this year.

Addressing a symposium, held at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, Brig. Zaza said Jordan is doing its utmost to contain narcotic trafficking and to prevent it from spreading to the region. He pointed out that Jordan is paying a high price for controlling narcotics, despite its limited financial resources.

He noted that the economic costs of controlling narcotics are high because it entails the intensification of efforts of the badia and border police, the armed forces, the customs officials and the public security.

Brig. Zaza said Jordan has not

received any financial support from the neighbouring Arab countries, even though it tries to keep drugs from entering those countries. Jordan once received but JD 20,000 a long time ago.

However, he said, Jordan was receiving international support for its efforts to control narcotic trafficking. This support reflects the world's appreciation of Jordan's role in this area.

He pointed out that Jordan receives annual aids for the narcotic control programmes from the United Nations and Germany, noting that France has recently decided to help Jordan in this field.

He called for activating the national anti-narcotic committee, which he said, had not taken any decision since its establishment in 1986.

He also stressed the need for promoting awareness about the dangers of narcotics, despite the

fact that it does not pose a real danger to the Jordanian society.

He stressed that Jordan is not a narcotic consumer country, but rather a transit zone.

However, to overlook the problems, will pose a threat in the future, Brig. Zaza said.

He added that the committee was suffering because of a lack of funds. Brig. Zaza said that under Jordanian law, a narcotic user is not punished if he demands treatment and provides evidence of the treatment, and he discloses information about the source of the narcotics.

He also said the global discovery rates of narcotics are one-tenth of the quantities smuggled.

The symposium was organised by the Amman Rotary Club to shed light on the major problems posed by narcotics and to form alliances to help the government authorities deal with it.

Police say problem of travellers stranded at bridge far from over

AMMAN — The problem of ensuring entry for thousands of Palestinians visiting their relatives in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip is far from being solved and if anything it is being aggravated, according to Lieutenant Colonel Abdul Salam Al Jaafreh, director of the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad Bridges across the Jordan River.

The police departments have recorded 54,000 registered Palestinians waiting to cross to the occupied Arab lands, and these figures are expected to be augmented by up to 20,000 others whose Israeli permits are about to expire and would be heading for the occupied lands for renewal so as not to lose their rights there, noted Lt. Col. Jaafreh in a statement published in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday.

This crisis is unsolvable as long as Israelis are adamant in their position of only allowing limited numbers of Palestinians, he added.

Lt. Col. Jaafreh said that originally 4,000 visitors and Palestinian residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza were allowed to cross daily, 2,500 via the King Hussein Bridge and the rest across the Prince Mohammad Bridge. But the Israelis had closed the latter bridge before travellers, allowing only trucks to pass, thus confining all travel to the King Hussein Bridge.

Lt. Col. Jaafreh said that the

Israelis reduced the 2,500 figure to 1750 in May on each day, except for Friday, when only 500 are allowed to cross.

This year the summer season coincided with the return of the Muslim pilgrims from Mecca, thus aggravating the situation at the crossing points.

Lt. Col. Jaafreh said the Israelis, who get around JD55 million in fees for visitor permits have been putting obstacles in the way of returning people with the hope of discouraging Arabs from returning to their homeland.

Clarks
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Workshop on rehabilitating handicapped

RAMTHA (J.T.) — The Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) in cooperation with the Department of Social Development Tuesday opened a workshop to train women on ways to rehabilitate their handicapped children.

Fifty local mothers are involved in the three-day workshop which is being held at a school. The mothers will listen to lectures and participate in seminars on causes of disabilities, means of early discovery and prevention as well as training children on speech and hearing, social development department officials said.

During the workshop, there will be free examination of children who had been suffering from the hearing difficulties and an inspection of hearing aids given to children.

Experts from the Ministry of Social Development and the Queen Alia Centre for the Hearing and Speech are taking part in the workshop.

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Unchangeable facts

IT WAS encouraging to hear U.S. Secretary of State James Baker reject Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's differentiation between "political" and "security" settlements in the occupied Arab territories. This U.S. position, while not in itself new or necessarily tailored to be music to Arab ears, should go some distance in assuaging Arab fears about an impending deal over the question of the loan guarantees being hatched by the Americans and the Israelis at the expense of the Arabs. Mr. Baker's statement is most positive and significant when seen in the light of the level of detailed discussions the secretary of state held with Israeli leaders on the issue of the loan guarantees. It was particularly heartening to hear that a senior State Department official had said that the Americans wanted the deal on the loan guarantees meet "Israeli and Palestinian needs as well as ours." Sure enough, the Palestinians would insist that a deal between the U.S. and Israel over the loan guarantees would not compromise Palestinian territorial rights in the West Bank and Gaza. While the Palestinians may see flexibility on Israel's part by freezing settlement, they see no reward in it. As the Americans have repeatedly said the settlements are a major obstacle to peace. Nor should the Arabs be expected to offer Israel any rewards for halting settlement. While the Israelis are rewarded by a U.S. commitment to settle Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Palestinian refugees who left their homes in Palestine only in 1948 and in 1967 are still stranded in refugee camps in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the occupied territories themselves. We agree with Mr. Baker that there is a "new opportunity to move forward" in the peace process. Much of the recent optimism had generated from changes in Israel itself. The Arabs have always sought to settle the Middle East conflict on the basis of international legitimacy. Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and an exchange of land for peace.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WE HAVE nothing to add to what prime minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said about the prospects of James Baker's visit to Jordan and the other countries of the Middle East or to the situation in Israel and the occupied Arab lands in the wake of Yitzhak Rabin's success in the parliamentary elections, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. There is nothing that calls for excessive optimism over the visit and the discussions, but we are always hopeful that the U.S. administration would force the Israelis to comply with the requirements of peace and implement U.N. Security Council resolutions, said the daily. Neither Mr. Rabin nor Mr. Shamir can bring peace to the region if the United States remains biased towards the Jewish state and nothing Mr. Rabin says can bring real hope to the Palestinians but rather practical Israeli steps towards withdrawal from the occupied lands, the paper continued. Furthermore, the paper said, nothing in Mr. Baker's promises to the Arabs can appease them or bring back their land and nothing short of the implementation of U.N. resolutions can re-establish security for all parties. The prime minister's views, as published in the Jordanian press, about Mr. Baker's visit to Amman will be conveyed to the U.S. secretary of state with firm reiteration of the Jordanian principled stand vis-a-vis the peace process, said the daily. We are going to demand that Washington take a brave step and end the Israeli occupation of Arab lands by paying for successful peace negotiations, and we are going to demand that the sufferings of the Palestinians should stop, the paper added. It said that Jordan welcomes the U.S. Secretary of State and strongly demands that the Palestinians should be repatriated and their rights should be respected.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily demanded that the Traffic Department openly declare a clear policy about the cars seat belts so that motorists and car users can comply with the regulations. Nazifi said that if under all circumstances and on all roads motorists should use the seat belts, then they would abide by the regulations and avoid fines, but if the seat belts are to be used on free ways only, then the motorists would be relieved but would also abide by the given regulations. This move on the part of the Traffic Department is essential since many motorists are being fined at random and at a time when many other motorists escape fine for not using the seat belts, the writer said. It so happens that motorists not fastening their seat belts and driving at high speed along the freeways escape all punishment, but those inside the city are easily spotted by the police who often issue a ticket, he pointed out. It is not a secret to say that most motorists and drivers inside Amman and other cities ignore the use of the seat belts with the police's full knowledge of this fact, but at the same time traffic police sometimes tend to issue tickets to the motorists who are unaware of regulations as to when and where to fasten seatbelts, he added. It is rather unfair to fine some motorists and leave others if they both are not using their seatbelts and it is unfair for the public to remain at a loss about the regulations, he said. The writer demanded that clear instructions be issued as soon as possible so as to save motorists further inconvenience or unpleasant surprises.

Economic Forum

Returnees — How much of a burden?

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

THE way the Jordanian economy has been tolerating the tremendous pains of a 20 per cent unemployment rate is truly admirable. We do not actually know the exact mechanism by which this tolerance is achieved, as this issue has not been scientifically investigated. However, we are not short of value judgements and impressionistic views, although knowing how things work out here is not significant because it will not contribute to the solution of the unemployment problem. I believe that the system to the extended family in particular has made a very valuable contribution to the containment of the destructive effects of unemployment. This is not to commend this system or recommend it as a remedy. Such social phenomena, however, emerge and vanish gradually over time and on their own, but we are lucky enough to find one around when the unemployment malady struck our society. It has become standard thinking to say that the return of Jordanian workers from the Gulf states was responsible for the unemployment dilemma. Certainly, the immigrant returnees aggravated the problem but did not create it. This issue, or hypothesis, deserves investigation. An unemployed person is defined as one who seeks a job but does not find it; a man or woman who does not work is not

necessarily unemployed. How many returnees do fall in this category of persons who actively seek employment? I believe that the figure is much less than is widely thought. A certain number of returnees are especially skilled labourers whose skills are demanded by the Jordanian economy. Another large segment would start their own businesses and create jobs for other returnees and occasionally for non-returnees. The construction boom ignited by the return of Jordanian expatriates has already been underway and provides an impressive evidence of one of the positive effects of that return. The returnees, or a certain majority of them, have not brought back only themselves and families but also their savings. So far, they have gone into investing in housing because they could not afford to wait longer; building a dwelling for one's own use is not dependent on the investment climate. But other investments are certainly dependent on it. Now let us not puzzle ourselves about what an appropriate or favourable investment climate means. It must eventually mean the climate that does not deter investment. In this stage of Jordan's economic development, government constraints, overcontrol of economic activity and bureaucratic practices are the greatest impediments to investment. Wiping them out is costless to the government and productive to the

economy and will attract part of the returnee's savings into investment. Probably all of us know this fact, including all the persons that take part in making economic decisions, small and large. But knowing this or believing in it is something and it is quite something else to give the citizens the freedom to make economic decisions and transact whatever activity they like, thereby abandoning the powers and prerogatives that a bureaucrat enjoys. It is my firm contention that the returnees will be absorbed automatically in the national economic life, so much on the lines of the invisible-hand mechanism. In the longer run, the return to Jordan will be in their interest and in the interest of the national economy. We need not worry so much about the question of the absorption of the returnees and, practically, there is not much we can offer them if we want to work on a different assumption. As stated at the outset of this article, unemployment predated the return of the expatriates. We do have an unemployment problem which is abundantly pressing and menacing. But we do not have a returnee problem. We can surely imagine one if we have a surplus of time and effort that we wish to squander.

Jewish Democrats find convention 'tasteful'

By Allison Kaplan
The Jerusalem Post

THE ENTIRE Democratic convention in New York last week was, in many ways, more heimlich than the 1988 convention in Atlanta. Though no one in the room actually started dancing a hora, Jewish political pros at the reception were openly heaving sighs of relief that they could relax so completely on the same day the speeches on the Democratic platform were being given. At the same point in the 1988 convention in Atlanta, instead of munching and socialising, American Jewish leaders were huddled in conference trying to work out a compromise on a pro-Palestinian challenge to the Middle Eastern plank of the Democratic platform. The most vocal supporter of that challenge in 1988, Jesse Jackson, took time in his speech this week to praise Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for his "wisdom in affirming negotiations over conflict."

But more important than the smooth adoption of the platform and Mr. Jackson's posture, the Jewish community was happy that it had not one but two politicians it could rally around: Yitzhak Rabin and Bill Clinton. The convention was the first major gathering of American Jews since Mr. Rabin's election. All around were signs that the dominant political American Jewish organisations were closing ranks: The America-Israel Public Affairs Committee was easing leftward and the anti-Likud organisations, like American Friends of Peace Now — consistent supporters of Labour and Meretz — were taking their place in the American Jewish mainstream. This was reinforced by the revelation that Peace Now is applying for membership in the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations. Even the buttons worn by Aipac supporters and American Friends for Peace Now were very similar. The Aipac button said, "Pro-Israel, Pro-Democracy, Pro-Peace," while the buttons worn by Peace Now supporters proclaimed, "I Love New York, I Love Israel and I Love Peace."

Virtually the entire spectrum of the American Jewish community appears to believe Mr. Clinton will be an improvement over Mr. Bush, although his views on Israel issues remain hazy. The campaign is catering to the traditional pro-Israel community, where much of the money-power is concentrated, and all of the official statements reflect that. Mr. Clinton and running mate Sen. Al Gore have cultivated support among Aipac members by being sharply critical of Mr. Bush's withholding of loan guarantees to Israel and attacking him for his position on Jerusalem. However, Mr. Clinton's closest

community are with American Jews who have been highly critical of Israeli policy in the past. Among them are Peter Edelman, whose wife, Marion Wright Edelman, has worked closely with Hillary Clinton on her pet issue of children's rights. Sara Ehrman, Clinton's liaison on Jewish issues, is a close family friend. The strength of the Peace Now presence at the convention was highlighted with a gathering in the neighbouring apartments of attorney Victor Kovner and Peter Yarrow, of Peter, Paul and Mary fame. In his spacious loft apart-

ment, Mr. Yarrow stood on a chair with his guitar and led the guests in a rousing version of "Don't Let the Light Go Out." Mr. Yarrow, doing his part on the culinary front, served coffee and muffins at the breakfast gathering. But it wasn't only American

Jewish groups that treated visiting VIPs to the joys of New York eating. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan hosted an elite crowd of senators to a full-scale kosher lunch at Lou G. Siegel's — a mammoth restaurant in the heart of the garment district — which served mountains of pastrami and potato knishes to an elite group of senators. Apparently with no connection to the cuisine, Mr. Moynihan's staffers attending the event wore buttons featuring the word "potatoe" — which Dan Quayle televised last month at a nationally televised spelling bee. Mr. Moynihan's aide on Jewish affairs, David Luchins, predicted that the Democrats would not be able to take Jewish support for granted, particularly after Mr. Bush reaches out to Yitzhak Rabin in Kennedysquare next month, possibly with loan guarantees in hand. "People have very short memories," Mr. Luchins said. "The same people who thought Mr. Bush was a hero in the Gulf war resent him now, but he may be a hero again after the guarantees are granted." No matter how hard the Republicans work to win over the Jews, it will be hard to match this feast — unless someone imports some Jewish soul food to the Republican convention in Houston next month. If they do, somebody had better tell Dan Quayle how to spell "knish."



The destruction of Middle East oil

By Joe Vialis

SAUDI ARABIA — There is disturbing evidence suggesting that U.S.-led forces may have intentionally lit most of the oil well fires in Kuwait. Despite U.S. military claims that napalm was only used to torch (Iraqi) oil-filled defensive trenches, CNN television showed the same trenches completely untouched a week after U.S. marine jets started flying napalm missions. The implications are horrific. Around February 16, U.S. Marine AV8B Harrier "Jump Jet" fighter bombers started operations against Kuwait, each carrying four napalm pods on its wing pylons. Allocating expensive AV8B aircraft was an interesting choice. Though all fighter-bombers engaged at that time could carry napalm, it was the AV8B that got the job. Napalm burns at temperatures high enough to literally melt the side pipes on conventional wellheads. Once the pipes melt, the napalm can then torch the high pressure oil that spurts in an uncontrolled stream from the damaged sidepipe, or wellhead. One problem with napalm is its inaccuracy. When released from an aircraft's wing pylons at normal ground-attack speeds of between 400 and 450 knots, the pods tend to wobble and are only capable of bracketing a target in the longitudinal sense. In the case of an F16 or F15E, attack speed would need to be dangerously reduced, seriously compromising manoeuvring ability, if attacking a small nominated target such as an oil wellhead. The Harrier has no such difficulty. The colossal power of its Pegasus engine allows attack speeds as low as 90 knots, with a unique ability to accelerate and climb almost vertically after the attack run, in order to avoid ground fire. It is also a very expensive aircraft; unlikely to be risked unless there is a compelling reason for pinpoint accuracy. The most ominous indicator of all during the period was that all Kuwaiti pilots were grounded in Saudi Arabia. Not one was allowed to fly missions over Kuwait until much later on. The

excuse used by the American commander in chief was that the Kuwaiti pilots needed "more training." An Australian Air Force fighter pilot advised this author that the Kuwaitis fly skyhawk ground-attack aircraft; adding the skyhawk is much easier to fly than the Saudi Tornados. What the grounding order ensured was that no native Kuwaiti was allowed to fly over his own oilfields during that phase of the operation. Without "eyes in the sky," the Kuwaitis were as blind as the world public when the environmental terrorism commenced. Alarmed by the well fires, the Iraqi government complained to the U.N. Security Council on February 23, urgently asking it to send a team to "investigate the destruction of non military installations in Kuwait." A curious response from the Iraqi government if it was guilty of the alleged crime. The Security Council, dominated by U.S. Ambassador Pickering, dismissed the request out of hand. Many readers will be aware to Thomas Reeve Pickering's colourful career background.

Nature of oil wellhead damage

It was to be many months, and thousands of feet of video footage before one startling common factor became obvious about the wellheads allegedly blown up by the Iraqis: the wellheads were all still in place. That single fact has staggering implications for any oilman. If Iraqi army or oil experts blew up the wells, how did they all manage to make the same, critical mistake of leaving every filmed wellhead intact below the master valve? The answer is that they would not do so. There is no space here to attempt to draw an accurate picture of a standard wellhead of the sort that dot the Kuwaiti and Iraqi landscapes. There is also no need. The image of those blazing wellheads is probably engraved on everyone's retina for ever. If not, there must be hundreds of miles of video lying around that is

readily accessible for examination. There is nothing spectacular about a production wellhead. It is a rather pedestrian affair, stark and functional in appearance, and simple in construction. All oil and gas wells are lined with a heavy steel tube known as steel casing string. During the drilling operation this heavy steel casing is literally cemented to the underground formations, becoming an immensely strong anchor, capable of withstanding many thousands of pounds of pressure. The wellhead is attached directly to the top end of the casing string by a flange — visible in many of the wellhead video shots just above ground level. About a foot above that flange sits the master valve. Its very name indicates what it is there for. If problems develop with any of the assorted smaller valves or pipes above the master valve, then the master valve is simply manually screwed into the "off" position, instantly trapping all high pressure oil inside the enormously strong casing string. The fact of the matter is, it was such an obvious error that for many months this author missed it — until the penny finally dropped. How could the demolition specialists get it so wrong?

How to blow a wellhead professionally

At no time has the author ever blown a wellhead, but observation of the explosive removal heavy casing stubs protruding above the North Sea floor, indicated a very efficient method that would have wrecked the Kuwaiti wellheads with consummate ease. It seemed so likely those procedures would be the most suitable for blowing wellheads, that during the weeks that followed, oil and army demolition experts in Australia were consulted in order to obtain entirely impartial professional opinions. None were told of the standard North Sea method of blowing casing stubs. In each case the only information imparted was the shape and size of the Kuwaiti

wellhead structures, the function of the valves, and the wall thicknesses of the main body and side pipes. Each expert's opinion was sought on the most effective way of destroying the wellhead. Nothing more than that. Every expert selected the same simple method. Only the quantity of explosive varied. Each expert individually decided to wrap Cordex tubular explosive (similar in appearance to white plastic clothes line) round the base of the wellhead, between the flange and master valve. Thus when the charge was detonated, the entire wellhead and master valve would have been neatly sliced off just above ground level, leaving no means whatever to control the resulting blowout. It was by far the most obvious, easiest and devastating solution to the problem. The method was very similar to that used for blowing casing stubs in the North Sea; the only difference being the special charge placed in the inside of the open casing stub. With an explosive particle velocity well in excess of one million feet per second the 1-inch-thick stub steel wall looked as though it had been cut with a laser.

To date this author has not seen a single television image of a Kuwaiti or Iraqi well suffering such damage. The only logical conclusion is that nearly all of the Kuwaiti wells were quite deliberately blown and lit by coalition air power.

It is a terrible charge to make against the Bush administration, and shocking in its implication. However, it must be stated that oil experts and armies vary little around the world. How could Iraqi specialists be totally incompetent and miss the most obvious demolition method in every single case?

If the charge against Iraq was accurate, it had many months to wire the wellheads, and hundreds of miles of Cordex available. It is a general purpose explosive used by every army in the world, and perfectly suited to the job in hand. Due to the severity of the

charge, and future ramifications on the world environment, other might like to cross check with independent explosives experts. If so, grab a few feet of video illustrating a Kuwaiti wellhead, show it to a minimum of four demolition experts, state the requirement for destruction assembly and then let each one decide. The wall thicknesses are 2 inches for the main body above and below the master valve, 3/4 of an inch for the side arms and (normally) 1/4 of an inch for the pipes that come out of those side arms.

The high-pressure Rumaila field

The wells in the Rumaila field to the north of Kuwait and underlying the Basra district, form about 50 per cent of Iraq's total oil reserves. Rumaila (North) and Rumaila (South) have a combined reserve of around 48 billion barrels, while the completely separate northern Iraqi fields around Kirkuk come in slightly higher at about 54 billion barrels. For background purposes only, Kuwait's total known reserves (not including their claimed portion of Rumaila) are 94 billion barrels and those of Saudi Arabia roughly 195 billion barrels. (All estimates courtesy World Oil, 1990).

By comparison with the wells in Kuwait's much-filmed southernly Burgan complex, those in the north are truly savage in terms of pressure and have not been televised to the author's knowledge. Burgan was blowing at between 700 and 1,200 pounds to the square inch. The wells of Rumaila have a potential as much as ten times higher than Burgan. Peak pressures of 11,000 pounds to the square inch are not uncommon; quite possibly the primary reason Bechtel Corp. was careful to keep all environmentalists, including Greenpeace, well away from the area.

Rumaila, on the available evidence, received carpet bombing as well as possible attention from AV8Bs. At pressures as high as those in Rumaila, concussion alone would be quite capable of

blowing out some of the wells. Suffice to say that it is simple to cut through a 1 inch plate steel with a 3,000 pound to the square inch water micro-jet. Rumaila has more than three times that pressure, with all the structural risk that implies.

It is in this specific area that the oil lakes mentioned in many periodicals are located, apparently being continually fed by rogue blowouts. One Dutch consultant assured the author that several of the ultra high pressure wells had cratered, i.e. had their wellheads blown completely off. Possibly as a result of a direct hit or near miss from B52s flying at 36,000 plus feet. Those wells pose a horrifying problem. The only solution is to get in close with heavy drilling rigs, and drill directional relief wells into the base of the blowouts. To approach 11,000 psi wells at surface level is nothing less than suicide. It may not be possible to use rigs at all. If the oil lakes are as big as some reports (and contacts) suggest, the risks from sparks in an area saturated with heavy gas would be prohibitive.

Attack credibility It is fair to ask what on earth President Bush, as a previous owner of Zapata oil company, was trying to achieve. If Saddam Hussein's threat was real, then Bush, as a former oilman himself, should have held back and put in special force teams to secure the wellheads. The Iraqi troops were mesmerised by the bombing, undermanned and terrified. There would have been little if any resistance.

Mr. Bush chose not to do so. A strategic analysis of Bush administration options in the Middle East show that while the most obvious possibility appears that of controlling the flow of oil from the Middle East itself, there is an alternative.

The author, who served as an oil consultant for twenty years, with direct experience in the Middle East, is now in freelance journalism based in Perth, Australia.

طرابلس ليبيا

Boulmerka hopes to lift Algeria's morale

PARIS (R) — Hassiba Boulmerka, Algeria's first female athletics world champion, is determined to give her troubled country its first Olympic gold medal in Barcelona.

"I'm ready to die to win in Barcelona. I want to win to boost the morale of my compatriots," she said.

Eleven months ago, in Tokyo, Boulmerka shocked the world and some of her fellow Algerians by winning the 1,500 metres title at the World Championships.

She became only the second woman athlete from an Arab country to win a major title after Morocco's Nawal Al Moutawakel took the 400 metres hurdles at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

A lot has changed in Algeria since Tokyo.

Leaders of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), who often denounced Boulmerka for baring her legs on the athletics track, were arrested and sentenced to 12 years in jail in a crackdown on Muslim fundamentalism, and the nation's leader has been murdered.

"I know I have appeared as a big threat to Muslim fundamentalists," Boulmerka said in an interview in Paris two weeks after Algerian head of state Mohammed Boudiaf was assassinated.

"But I believe in democracy and I will fight for my rights until my last breath."

Part of her fight will be to win a gold medal in Barcelona.

"I want to be a relief for all Algerians. The problems in my country exist in other parts of the world. But my country is in a bad state. It must stop at all costs."

she said. But she admitted she was not a politician and said she was more interested in her charity work for the disabled.

On the track, her task on Aug. 4 looks like a mission impossible. A knee injury in January hampered her preparation for the games and she has failed to impress in her few races so far this season.

She finished within the pack in Noisy-Le-Grand in her first race, fell in Lille and was only third in Nice this month.

"I'm feeling much better now. I have worked hard to make up for lost time and I hope I'll be ready on D-Day."

In between meetings, she trained at Paris' Institute of Sports and at a training camp in Zimowitz, in Germany, where sprinter Katriina Krabbe used to practice before big events.

She since left for a hideaway in the south of France, where she is training with compatriot Azzedine Brahimi, the 3,000 metres steeplechase bronze medalist in Tokyo, and their coach Amar Bouras.

"I'm under intense pressure from my compatriots and from the international press and it doesn't help," she added.

But she has been used to pressure since she ran her first cross-country race in 1984, in her hometown of Constantine. Friends and teachers tried hard to discourage her from running, she said.

Eight years later, she will enter the Olympic Stadium at the opening ceremony on July 25, wearing the Hijab (veil) which is part of the official suit of the Algerian women's team.

Ali struggles to beat Abu Hamda in tennis championship final

By Aileen Ramsay
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Hani Ali Al Tuesday defeated all-time rival Imad Abu Hamda 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 to win the second round of the 1992 Jordan Open Tennis Championship.

A crowd of over 250 fans attended the match played at the Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF) courts, during which Abu Hamda won the first set 7-5. Ali came back to win the second set 6-4.

In the third and final set, Ali broke Abu Hamda's serve to lead 2-1 but lost serve at 2-2. He again broke Abu Hamda to lead 3-2 and held serve to build a commanding lead of 4-2.

Ali seemed determined to win and retain his top ranking in Jordan as Abu Hamda lost serve

to trail 5-2.

Ali held serve to win the third set 6-2. He now leads the 1992 Jordan Tennis Championship with 500 points. Abu Hamda is second with 300 points.

Following the match, a jubilant Ali told the Jordan Times: "It was a tough match. I lost confidence because of my serve, but my fighting spirit kept me going."

Ali acknowledged his opponent's improvement saying: "He (Abu Hamda) has improved a lot. It was just his bad luck he lost the match."

Ali said he recently had a big lapse in training for the championship because of his recent engagement and absence from training.

In a statement to the Jordan Times Abu Hamda said: "The game was mine. I could have taken it in two sets. But once the

match got into the third set I was down and my legs were aching. I couldn't get close to the net. Next time it will be closer."

On the eve of the final match JTF President Daoud Hanania received a message from Her Majesty Queen Noor praising the standard of tennis in the Kingdom.

"Her Majesty has asked me to convey to the members of the Jordan Tennis Federation and to the competitors that she would have very much liked to be with us at this second championship of the men's singles tournament. Her Majesty wishes to express her pride in the high standards achieved by our Jordanian players and her appreciation to those who organised the tournament and looks forward to joining us in future tournaments," Dr. Hanania said in a statement to the press.



Hani Ali Al

OLYMPIC NEWS IN BRIEF

Pieterse disappears, may miss Olympics

BARCELONA (R) — Zola Pieterse, a controversial figure where ever she goes, has gone missing and may not compete in the Barcelona Olympics. Pieterse was not among the South African team who arrived here Tuesday and South African National Olympic Committee (NOCSA) President Sam Ramsamy said he had no idea where she was. All countries must name their athletes teams by midnight Tuesday. "At the moment only one person knows where she is and that's God, and maybe Zola Pieterse," Mr. Ramsamy said. Newspaper reports said Pieterse, who competed for Britain under her maiden name of Budd at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, was being treated in London for a liver complaint.

IOC: Petranoff unlikely to qualify

BARCELONA (R) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) said Tuesday that javelin thrower Tom Petranoff, cause of a major row in South Africa, was unlikely to be allowed to compete in the Barcelona Games. The case of U.S.-born Petranoff, a naturalised South African, has split the South African Athletics Association (ASA) on racial lines with one faction nominating him for the games and the other rejecting him. But IOC spokeswoman Michele Verdier told reporters: "I do not think Tom Petranoff can qualify for these games in as much as the South African Olympic Committee (NOCSA), for whom he could qualify, has not included him in its list of participants."

Olympic dream ends for Sandra Myers

MADRID (AP) — Sandra Myers, the Kansas native bidding to become the first Spanish woman to a medal in the summer Olympics, will miss her chance because of a nagging leg injury, she said. The UCLA graduate, who took out Spanish citizenship four years ago, placed third at 400 metres in the 1991 World Championships and was on track to be among the medal favourites in the event in Barcelona until suffering an achilles tendon injury two months ago in a training session. The 31-year-old Madrid resident has two frustrating months resting and undergoing various treatments to help the injury heal, including a four-day visit last week to a "natural healer" in Spain's northwestern region of Galicia. "Little by little it's getting better and a month from now I'll probably be fine, but now I'm in no shape to compete — it's just bad timing," she said. "It's not my first injury, it's just one of those things that happen in track and field."

Becker sparks row over Olympic remarks

BARCELONA (R) — Former Wimbledon champion Boris Becker can expect a frosty welcome from his Olympic team mates after upsetting them in a magazine interview. Becker's comments that he was going to the games just to enjoy the atmosphere rather than to win have infuriated other German athletes and officials. "I want an explanation from Becker," said

German delegation head Ulrich Feldhoff. Becker, who has earned some \$10 million in prize money from tennis, told the German Zeit magazine that he was more interested in soaking up the Olympic spirit when he flies into Barcelona later this week for his first games than in winning a medal for his country. "I want to drink coffee with other athletes, such as Carl Lewis," he was quoted as saying. But an angry Feldhoff responded: "I can't set up such a date for Boris Becker. The Olympics are no coffee party. It is no secret that athletes come to the Olympic Games to achieve the best possible results. It is a high point in an athlete's career."

Mitchell vows to be a 'hungry animal'

NARBONNE, France (AP) — Dennis Mitchell is acting like a hungry lion waiting to pounce on his unsuspecting prey. Since becoming the king of American sprinters last month by winning the 100-metre championship at the U.S. Olympic trials, Mitchell has failed to assert his authority. Instead of winning, he has settled for second and third-place finishes on the tough European circuit. The losses will not have any bearing on his Olympic performance, he says. "They haven't damaged my confidence," he said at the U.S. track and field team's training facility, before leaving for a meet Tuesday night at Sestriere, Italy. "I cannot win every race I'm in. I cannot do that, I will not do that. I've always lost. Losing has made me hungry to win. In Barcelona, I will come out a hungry animal."

Tragedy spurs De La Hoya on to gold

BARCELONA (R) — Win or lose, Olympic boxer Oscar De La Hoya ends every fight on his knees. "After every bout I get down on one knee and blow a kiss up to the sky to her," the American said. "I do it after every win, and even if I lose." "Her" is his mother Cecilia, who died of breast cancer in Los Angeles in October 1990 at the age of 38. The memory of his mother's death spurred him on to win gold at the Olympics. "The memory of her death spurred me on to win gold at the Olympics. The memory of her death spurred me on to win gold at the Olympics. The memory of her death spurred me on to win gold at the Olympics."

Henkel's injury worry returns

BONN (R) — World high jump champion Heike Henkel, who appeared at the weekend to have recovered from an achilles tendon injury, was again troubled by it during training. Coach Gerd Osenberg said the German, who cleared 2.03 metres at a meeting in Ingolstadt at the weekend with no apparent ill-effect, had again felt the tendon injury during training. The Ingolstadt competition was her last before she jumps at the Olympics on Aug. 8. "Heike had considerable pains again during training," said Osenberg. "We must use the remaining two and a half weeks till the competition in Barcelona with the help of physiotherapy." After the Ingolstadt meeting, Henkel had said: "The higher I jumped, the less it hurt."

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Powell makes longest jump in history

SESTRIERE, Italy (R) — American world record holder Mike Powell recorded the longest jump in history Tuesday with a wind-assisted 8.99 metres at an international athletics meeting there. Powell, who broke Bob Beamon's 23-year-old long jump world record with a leap of 8.95 at last year's Tokyo world Championships, came close to breaching the nine-metre mark here with the help of a following wind of three metres a second, a metre above the allowable limit. Carl Lewis, the world record holder and world champion who did not qualify for the Barcelona Olympic 100 metres, finished first over the distance in 9.97 seconds with a following wind of 2.5 metres a second. His Santa Monica Track Club team mate Mike Marsh clocked 19.79 in the 200 and former world record holder Renaldo Nehemiah returned 13.29 in the 110 metres hurdles. Both times were wind-assisted. About 10,000 spectators were present in the high-altitude ski resort town on a cold and blustery morning.

Chioccioli wins his first Tour stage

ST. ETIENNE, France (R) — Last year's Giro d'Italia winner Franco Chioccioli celebrated his first appearance in the tour de France by claiming victory in the fifteenth stage. The 32-year-old Italian broke out from the pack on the 1,200-metre Col De La Croix-De-Chaubouret just outside St. Etienne and came in to win in four hours 43 minutes 59 seconds. Dimitri Konyshov of the CIS was second and Giancarlo Perini of Italy third, both 42 seconds behind. Overall leader Miguel Indurain of Spain finished in a small group a few seconds later and retained the yellow jersey on a mainly flat day following a strenuous weekend in the Alps. French rider Roman Pensec, who was in second place and chasing Chioccioli on the descent into St. Etienne, fell heavily on a bend after the road was made treacherous by a sudden shower of rain.

Borg beats Vilas in exhibition

MAHWAH, New Jersey (AP) — Bjorn Borg continued his mastery over Guillermo Vilas in their first exhibition meeting, winning 6-1, 6-3 in a match that concluded the Pathmark Classic. Borg ran up a 4-0 lead in the first set, lost a 24-point fifth game and then broke to close out the set, winning with a forehand passing shot on the run. The second set was decided on a break in the eighth game and Borg ended the 63-minute match with successive aces. Borg holds a 10-3 lead in his series with Vilas, who won their last match at the Nations Cup in 1980.

Finnish, Javelin ace sets record

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — Seppo Raty, one of Finland's greatest medal prospects in the upcoming Olympic Games, set a new Finnish javelin throw record of 90.60 metres in Klaukkala. Raty trails only Czechoslovakians Jan Zeleny, who owns the world record of 94.74, Oslo, Norway, July 4, albeit thrown with a controversially designed new model, and Britain's Steve Backley who threw 91.46 metres in January in New Zealand.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TAMMAM HIRSH
Treasure Media Services, Inc.

1991 HAND OF THE YEAR

North-South vulnerable. North source of tricks caused considerable problems.

West led a low spade and declarer could count only seven fast tricks. While the heart or diamond suits might each produce another trick, clubs offered an alternative of at least one trick, possibly two. Unfortunately, the South hand was rather short of entries.

Declarer got off to a good start by winning the ace of spades and leading a club at trick two. After East followed low, South inserted the jack. When that held, declarer was up to eight tricks, and he found a pretty good method to ensure a ninth. Declarer crossed to the king of spades, led a club to the ace and continued with a club, discarding the queen of spades from dummy!

On lead with the queen of clubs, East was faced with a choice of unpleasant options. A spade return would provide declarer with an extra entry to hand to establish and cash a long club for the fulfilling trick. To lead a diamond would be into the table's tenace and allow declarer to score four diamond tricks. And a heart would be up to the king, giving declarer his ninth trick in that suit. Check and mate.

The bidding: North 1NT, South 2NT, North 3NT, South 4NT, North 5NT, South 6NT, North 7NT, South 8NT, North 9NT, South 10NT, North 11NT, South 12NT, North 13NT, South 14NT, North 15NT, South 16NT, North 17NT, South 18NT, North 19NT, South 20NT, North 21NT, South 22NT, North 23NT, South 24NT, North 25NT, South 26NT, North 27NT, South 28NT, North 29NT, South 30NT, North 31NT, South 32NT, North 33NT, South 34NT, North 35NT, South 36NT, North 37NT, South 38NT, North 39NT, South 40NT, North 41NT, South 42NT, North 43NT, South 44NT, North 45NT, South 46NT, North 47NT, South 48NT, North 49NT, South 50NT, North 51NT, South 52NT, North 53NT, South 54NT, North 55NT, South 56NT, North 57NT, South 58NT, North 59NT, South 60NT, North 61NT, South 62NT, North 63NT, South 64NT, North 65NT, South 66NT, North 67NT, South 68NT, North 69NT, South 70NT, North 71NT, South 72NT, North 73NT, South 74NT, North 75NT, South 76NT, North 77NT, South 78NT, North 79NT, South 80NT, North 81NT, South 82NT, North 83NT, 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Financial Markets			
Jordan Times			
In co-operation with			
Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 21/7/92	TOKYO CLOSE 21/7/92	
Sterling Pound	1.9055	1.9150	
Deutsche Mark	1.4935	1.4845	
Swiss Franc	1.3225	1.3113	
French Franc	5.0450	5.0340**	
Japanese Yen	125.48	125.12	
European Currency Unit	1.3645	1.3675**	
* 150 for \$100 ** European Opening at 8:00 a.m. 21/7/92			
Currency Interest Rates			
	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.31	3.31	3.50
Sterling Pound	10.18	10.25	10.25
Deutsche Mark	9.62	9.81	9.75
Swiss Franc	8.75	8.68	8.87
French Franc	10.15	10.12	10.12
Japanese Yen	4.53	4.37	4.18
European Currency Unit	10.87	10.87	10.87
* Forward bid rates for 3 months covering U.S. Dollars 12 months or equivalent.			
Precious Metals			
	UNITED STATES 21/7/92	UNITED KINGDOM 21/7/92	
Gold	358.00	6.65	Silver 3.98
* 100 grams			
Currency			
	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.667	0.669	
Sterling Pound	1.2775	1.2837	
Deutsche Mark	0.4494	0.4516	
Swiss Franc	0.5093	0.5118	
French Franc	0.1328	0.1335	
Japanese Yen	0.5328	0.5355	
Dutch Guilder	0.3983	0.4003	
South African Rand	0.1237	0.1243	
Italian Lira	0.0591	0.0594	
Belgian Franc	0.02186	0.02197	
* For 100			
Other Currencies			
	Bid	Offer	
Liberalized Dollar	1.7400	1.7530	
Libanese Lira	0.03335	0.04000	
Saudi Riyal	0.1789	0.1789	
Israeli Sheqel	2.2500	2.3400	
Qatari Riyal	0.1809	0.1810	
Yemeni Rial	0.2000	0.2150	
Ugandan Shilling	1.7050	1.7250	
UAE Dirham	0.1809	0.1810	
Greek Drachma	0.3645	0.3945	
Yemeni Rial	1.5500	1.5750	
* For 100			
CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market			
Index	19/7/92	Close	20/7/92
All Share	141.47		141.09
Banking Sector	104.33		103.53
Insurance Sector	150.28		150.28
Industry Sector	193.41		193.61
Services Sector	179.28		179.14
* December 31, 1990 = 100			

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.895060	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.193257	Canadian dollar
	1.497787	Deutsche marks
	1.688292	Dutch guilders
	1.330010	Swiss francs
	30.7680	Belgian francs
	5.061040	French francs
	114.01141	Italian lire
	125.4853	Japanese yen
	5.431060	Swedish crowns
	5.87508800	Norwegian crowns
	5.75907640	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	357.20357.50	U.S. dollars

Zambia to sell off state firms

LUSAKA (R) — The Zambian government has set in place a framework under which it will sell off more than 130 state firms in line with IMF recommendations.

Officials said the government had approved plans for the formation of a Zambia privatization centre and agency to handle the five-year programme.

The 11-member agency will have representatives from the ministries of trade, commerce, industry and finance as well as trade unions and private business groups.

The self-off plan forms part of Zambia's International Monetary Fund (IMF) supervised economic reform programme. The World Bank gave Zambia \$210 million this month in privatisation credits.

The government hopes to reduce its burden of subsidising up to 80 per cent of the public sector through the offer.

Party and government members are required to declare their interest in any company up for sale following concern by the public that senior officials would snap up large stakes.

Claims of interest have to be made to the agency within 14 days of public notice. Issuing false or withholding information would be punishable by \$636 fines or five-year prison terms.

The programme would include public offers of shares through negotiated or competitive bids and management or employee buy-outs. Proceeds would be paid into a special account at the central bank.

The four major holding companies — Zambia Industrial and Mining Corp., Industrial Development Corp., National Hotels Development Corp. and National Import and Export Corp. would be abolished before the start of the programme in September with the first selection of up to 14 firms.

Zambian Finance Minister

Emmanuel Kasonde said recently the country's IMF supervised economic programme was on track despite a severe drought which required extra spending.

Mr. Kasonde told reporters that by June 30, the government's revenue collections were ahead by two billion kwacha (\$14 million) while expenditure was under control.

"I am conscious of the fact this is a drought year and we will need more spending. But a special account has been opened at the central bank for funding to cover additional costs as a result of the drought and that should not derail us," he said.

"Our economic performances will remain on track," he pointed out.

Zambia, which is fighting to pass a large budget deficit and high inflation and money supply growth, needs \$350 million to import nearly one million tonnes of maize from abroad to meet the shortfall from the worst drought in decades.

Over \$200 million has been secured for the drought programme.

The country is expected to receive \$700 million in balance of payments support for 1992 from donors who pledged \$1.3 billion last March.

Dean Mungomba, deputy minister in the president's economic office, said Zambia would try to persuade countries to write off debt and reduce debt servicing at the Paris Club meeting scheduled for July 20.

He told reporters 600 million of Zambia's \$1 billion annual foreign exchange earnings from copper exports went into debt servicing while the mines needed \$400 million for operations.

This left the country relying on external aid for its balance of payments and import needs.

Zambia has one of the world's highest per capita debts at \$7.2 billion.

Study: Foreign firms do not cheat Uncle Sam of taxes

WASHINGTON (R) — There is no evidence that foreign companies working in the United States cheat the internal revenue service (IRS), despite U.S. politicians' claims of a \$30-billion-a-year tax scam, said a report released Monday.

"The study concluded that, contrary to critics' charges IRS statistical data do not offer enough information to answer the allegations that foreign-controlled domestic corporations are reducing their federal income taxes," said the report.

The study was conducted by accounting giant KPMG Peat Marwick for the Organisation for International Investment, a coalition of big U.S. subsidiaries of mostly European firms.

Earlier this year, lawmakers raised the bar for many foreign companies by accusing them of taking advantage of the complexities of the U.S. tax code to cheat the IRS out of some \$30 billion a year.

They also criticised the IRS for failing to be more vigilant of foreign companies that operate here through U.S. subsidiaries, with Japanese companies topping the list.

Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton, as part of his economic programme, has said he could raise \$45 billion over four years by cracking down on foreign companies' tax payments.

OECD sees French budget deficit overshooting again

PARIS (R) — The French government's budget deficit could overshoot considerably its target for this year as tax income again falls below expectations, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has said.

In predicting a 1992 budget deficit of 167 billion francs (\$32 billion), the rich nations' think-tank expects the overshoot to be even larger than last year's 63 per cent.

But in its half-yearly economic outlook, it backs the government line that there is little it can do to speed an economic recovery that would reverse the fall in income, and says France is well placed to profit from an upturn in world growth.

The original budget deficit target for this year was 90 billion francs (\$17 billion) although the government has already had to revise that up to 135 billion francs (\$25.5 billion).

The 1991 deficit was 132 billion francs (\$25 billion) nearly two-thirds more than the original target of \$1 billion (\$15.3 billion).

The OECD expects growth in France's gross domestic product (GDP) to pick up gradually over the next 18 months.

The annualised rate in the first half of this year is put at 1.7 per cent, rising to two in the second half, 2.7 in the first half of 1993 and three from July to December next year. Growth in the whole of 1991 was 0.9 per cent.

A budget shortfall of 167 billion francs would be 2.25 per cent of GDP, up from 1.9 per cent last year. The government is adamant that it will not breach two per cent this year.

The OECD said the government's decision to cut the higher rate of value added tax on cars and many luxury goods in April, ahead of the European Community's 1993 deadline, reduced income.

A civil service pay deal and measures to tackle the stubbornly high jobless rate added nearly 20 billion francs (\$3.8 billion) to state spending, OECD economists said.

But much of the widening of the deficit was automatic, the result of slow growth.

"There is little that can be done to support activity in the near term. In any case, the conditions are in place for a moderate recovery," the agency said.

"The strong franc policy is clearly bearing fruit in terms of low inflation and improved competitiveness, and adherence to it should provide the best assurance that France will be able to profit fully from the incipient world recovery," it pointed out.

Key elements are a tight rein on the budget deficit and keeping interest rates as high as needed to keep the franc steady in the European Monetary System, the EC currency grid.

"The OECD added: 'Little relief on the interest rate front is likely until German rates begin to ease in 1993... in real terms they are set to remain very high.'"

Currency chaos grips Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese lira tumbled against the dollar Tuesday in unofficial trading in a chaotic Beirut foreign exchange market.

The central bank refused to quote real rates for a second straight day. It issued the same rate as last week's close, putting the lira at 1,875 to the dollar for information only.

Dealers said there was no inter-bank activity but the lira was being exchanged on Beirut's unofficial market at a record low of 2,050 to the dollar compared with 2,000 on Monday.

Bankers said the central bank did not quote the real value of the pound to avoid a leap in the official dollar rate caused by huge demand for the American currency in a one-way market.

They said no bank, dealer or depositor was willing to sell dollars because of increasing political tension.

Christian opponents of Lebanon's first general elections since 1972 which are expected to be held this summer have called for a one-day general strike on Thursday.

They want President Elias Hrawi's Syrian-backed government to postpone the polls until after Syria pulls out its troops to eastern Lebanon in September.

Thousands of workers and youths rioted across Lebanon in May protesting against the lira's plunge and soaring inflation.

Western diplomats have said it was unclear whether the lira's renewed fall would lead to more civil strife or if Syrian and Lebanese troops would try to stamp out trouble at an early stage.

Russian rouble falls sharply against dollar

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The rouble fell sharply against the dollar on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange (MICE) Tuesday and ITAR-TASS news agency blamed the fall on the change in the chairmanship of the Russian Central Bank.

The currency fell to 151.1 to the dollar from 135.4 roubles the previous week, TASS said. At the same time, the volume of roubles traded was sharply higher.

TASS said the fall was due to the naming of Viktor Geraschenko, former head of the defunct Soviet Gosbank, as Russia's Central Bank head. Mr. Geraschenko has said money spent defending the rouble could have been better used elsewhere.

Mr. Geraschenko told Interfax News Agency last weekend the Russian Central Bank had spent \$500 million to defend the rouble this year. But the money could have been better spent servicing the foreign debts of the former Soviet Union.

The exchange said \$40.56 million changed hands in the session, up from \$27.73 million at the previous session. The bank intervened on the exchange, but an official declined to give any details.

Russian oil production dropped by 13 per cent — a decline of 32 million tonnes — compared with the first half of 1991, the government said.

Production declines in Russia's energy sector especially hard, the government reported.

Exports of oil, natural gas and other fuel — Russia's main source of foreign currency earnings — dropped 35 per cent compared with the first half of last year. Earnings from these exports were \$15.4 billion lower.

Monday's Izvestia article predicted that the poor production figures would not immediately lower the living standards of ordinary Russians, but added: "They will undoubtedly influence the republic's pace of economic development in the near future."

Buying spree causes import pile-up in China ports

BEIJING (R) — China's import buying spree this year is jamming ports with shipments of wheat and other commodities that cannot be unloaded, and officials fear the congestion can only get worse.

"Transport facilities have been unable to keep up with the fast development of the economy," a transport ministry spokesman said by telephone.

The official China Daily blamed importers who it said were blindly placing orders now that the central government has given fast economic growth a green light.

"Many foreign trade companies continue to order excessive imports regardless of their actual demand and limited storage conditions," the newspaper said.

Main ports handled 288 million tonnes of cargo in the first five months of the year, up 14.6 per cent on the same period last year, the newspaper said.

Foreign shippers in Shanghai said cargo of imported wheat must sometimes wait up to a month before being unloaded. Other bulk shipments were similarly tied up.

"It is mostly grains and timber that are having a hard time," said one shipping agent who asked not to be identified.

A spokesman for the Shanghai Port Authority confirmed that facilities were congested, but declined to give details.

The China Daily said other ports at Dalian, Tianjin, Qingdao, Ningbo and Canton had similar difficulties.

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U.N. struggles to keep Sarajevo Airport open

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — U.N. peacekeepers dodged mortar rounds at Sarajevo Airport Tuesday, struggling to keep going an airlink of humanitarian supplies for thousands of civilians trapped by war in the Bosnian capital.

The airport was reopened Tuesday morning allowing several cargo planes to land with desperately-needed supplies for some 380,000 civilians trapped in Sarajevo.

But U.N. forces were then forced to suspend flights after several mortar rounds hit the airport. Operations were resumed about 90 minutes later, according to a spokesman for the U.N. commander in Sarajevo, General Lewis Mackenzie.

The airport, the lifeline supplying food and medicine for the city's beleaguered civilians, was closed all day Monday by heavy fighting among Bosnia's Muslims, Croats and Serbs.

It was the first halt in U.N. mercy flights which began on July 3 to try to help civilians cut off by a three-month siege of the city by Serbian irregular forces.

U.N. officials said the airport was closed on Monday after coming under a blistering assault during which mortar rounds hit a hanger, the runway and seven vehicles. Two Canadian U.N. peacekeepers were wounded lightly.

The warring factions traded fire with light arms in several districts of Sarajevo Tuesday before turning their mortars briefly

on the airport.

The opening of the airport by the United Nations on July 3 followed months of negotiations with the warring factions.

Residents were slowly starving at the time because of blockade of the city by the Serb irregulars opposed to the independence of the former Yugoslav Republic.

The European Community meanwhile pressed on with its peace efforts Tuesday when special envoy Lord Carrington arrived in Belgrade and began talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

The EC Monday urged the United Nations and other international organisations to expel Yugoslavia for escalating the violence in the breakaway Yugoslav republic. Serbia, the republic that dominates the new, smaller, Yugoslavia, is believed to be behind most of the fighting.

Germany, Switzerland and Croatia announced plans Monday to take in some of the fleeing refugees, but Croatia, another former Yugoslav republic, announced it would accept 3,500 other Bosnians who had fled their homeland.

In Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, a U.N. refugee official asked the Croatian government to take in 4,000 people fleeing Bosanski Novi, a town across the border in Bosnia.

"There is an evident tactic of 'ethnic cleansing' presently taking place in Bosanski Novi," Jose Maria Mediluce, the U.N. official, said in a letter.

Ethnic cleansing refers to the killing or evicting members of other ethnic groups and repopulating the area to make territorial claims. The Serbs have been widely accused of such tactics, as have Muslim and Croat groups to a lesser degree.

Mate Granic, minister in charge of refugees, said Croatia would accept the refugees but hoped to relocate them later.

Croatian officials also said they were sending 3,500 Bosnian conscripts who fled occupying Serb forces in northern Bosnia to mainly Croat-populated regions in Bosnia's southwest. The refugees are mostly ethnic Croats, but relief officials denied they were practicing a kind of reverse ethnic cleansing.

The United States Monday blamed Serbian forces for the latest fighting in Sarajevo and urged all sides to observe a ceasefire agreement that was to have taken effect Sunday.

"We firmly believe that the Serbian side, which launched a war of expansion against Bosnia and has engaged in the despicable practice of ethnic cleansing, bears the lion's share of blame for the current sad situation," State Department spokesman Joseph Snyder told reporters.



A Serb fighter, in a bulletproof vest, takes cover behind a stone wall during recent fighting in the Bosnian town of Mostar

But leaders of both the Clinton and Bush campaigns say the gap will narrow and predict a hard race in the coming months.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gore Tuesday were on the fifth day of a 1,000-mile campaign bus trip through steel towns, farmland and cities to gear up support ahead of the Nov. 3 election.

Large, enthusiastic crowds have greeted them, and they plan visiting Indiana, Vice President Dan Quayle's home state.

Mr. Bush was headed Tuesday for Pennsylvania to stress his proposals for revamping America's education system and to New Jersey to talk about how the end of the cold war has made the country safe from nuclear attack.

The president, in his message to the rallies, said he was confident people would vote him in for four more years.

And in doing so he made a gentle reminder of the "character question" facing Mr. Clinton by talking about his own character.

"On Nov. 3, the American people will make a choice, and they'll decide who has it takes — who has the experience, the integrity and the character to lead this great nation into a new era, a new century."

Confident though he may be, the president seems on the verge of pulling Secretary of State James Baker into the White House in a sign of desperation to help his sputtering campaign.

Republican sources said Monday that they expected Mr. Baker to either resign or take a leave of absence from the State Department to become a special counselor to Mr. Bush to chart an agenda for a second term.

President George Bush broke Monday from his above-the-fray re-election strategy to jab at Mr. Clinton while the Democratic nominee boasted he would end the U.S. health care crisis if he won the presidency.

Mr. Bush had vowed to pursue a White House strategy of remaining "presidential" for the summer and putting off attacks on Mr. Clinton until after the Republican national convention in mid-August.

Bush calls for renewal, Clinton for change

WASHINGTON (R) — As Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton rides his campaign bus urging voters to try a new generation of leadership, President George Bush is touting his experience and says his goal is to "renew America."

Instead of saying "change," I might say "renew America," Mr. Bush told Republican rallies in 27 states via satellite on Monday night. "We're basically strong and we're basically sound — so I like that word 'renewal'."

Mr. Bush was trying to blunt a Clinton appeal, which seemed to be winning friends, that "it's time for change in America."

Mr. Clinton and his vice presidential pick, Al Gore, have rolled up one of the largest poll margins favouring a Democrat in the last 40 years with 3 1/2 months to go until the election.

A poll Monday by USA Today, Cable News Network and the Gallup Survey Organisation showed Mr. Clinton leading Mr. Bush 56 per cent to 28 per cent nationwide.

Delhi may evict Hindus from Muslim shrine

NEW DELHI (R) — India's federal government threatened Tuesday to use force to evict Hindu fundamentalists building a grand temple beside an ancient Muslim shrine, a controversy that has ignited religious riots.

"We will clear the area of devotees now engaged in building the temple if the state government refuses to honour its constitutional obligations," Home (Interior) Minister Shankarrao Chavan told parliament.

At least seven people have been killed and more than 100 injured in rioting, sparked by the start of construction of the temple in the Hindu pilgrimage town of Ayodhya in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

The Uttar Pradesh government is ruled by the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party, the main federal opposition party. The state government has already said it will not use force to oust thousands of Hindus from the disputed site, where a mosque built in 1528 now stands.

Mr. Chavan told parliament amid pandemonium from agitated members that he would wait until he heard from the Uttar Pradesh government about its efforts to evict the temple workers peacefully before taking any action.

The Supreme Court was expected to rule later Tuesday (around 1230 GMT) whether the building work violates lower court orders banning construction on the disputed land around the mosque.

Political analysts expect the federal government to take action after the court ruling.

The Indian army staged a show of force in the southern state of Kerala Tuesday after five people were killed and 75 injured in two days of communal riots over the temple, police in the state capital of Trivandrum said.

Another two people were killed and more than 30 injured in religious clashes over the temple in the western state of Maharashtra, news agency reports said.

The Ayodhya dispute has contributed to the fall of two national governments and kindled riots in which more than 2,000 people have been killed over the past three years.

COLUMN

Parents to blame for sons' crime — Tokyo court

TOKYO (R) — Three sets of Japanese parents were Tuesday held partly to blame for the death of a man attacked by their teenage sons. In the first significant civil ruling of its kind, the Tokyo District Court ruled that parents shared responsibility for the actions of their children. The court ordered the three 17-year-olds and their parents to pay 85 million yen (\$664,000) in compensation to the relatives of the dead man. The three delinquents attacked the 34-year-old man in Tokyo in June 1990 when he criticised them for riding around wildly on motorbikes. He died a month later as a result of his injuries. In his ruling, the judge said the parents failed to supervise their sons properly. "The incident was an extension of their delinquent lifestyle, with the boys not going to school or work, and the parents should also be held responsible for failing to supervise their children," he said.

Man kills neighbour because dog wet on his newspaper

SANTA CLARA, California (AP) — A man shot and killed his neighbour because he thought the neighbour's dog had urinated on his newspaper, police said, Michael Debaets, 49, was held on suspicion of homicide after Sunday's shooting. He was to be arraigned Tuesday. Police said Mr. Debaets and his wife, Robin, had a history of confrontations with neighbour Martin Myslinski, 33, over parking, trees, Mr. Myslinski's dog and the Debaets' cat. "This is an ongoing type of thing that has gone on for two years and possibly more," Sgt. Monte Macer said. "It's just a silly disagreement that ultimately led to murder." When the Debaets found their newspaper wet with what they thought was dog urine, Mrs. Debaets put it in Mr. Myslinski's convertible. Mr. Myslinski then threw it back on the Debaets' property, and Mrs. Debaets threw it back, police said.

Chimpanzees scuttle Nigerian elections

LAGOS (R) — National Assembly elections did not take place in a remote area of Nigeria's northern Kaduna state on July 4 because a group of chimpanzees attacked the presiding electoral officer, state radio reported Monday. An official report was quoted as saying the elections were abandoned in Bani Kanwa after the officer was attacked by a dozen chimpanzees while trekking to the polling station through deep forest. The radio did not say whether the officer was hurt. Voters in other parts of Nigeria elected a 91-seat Senate and 593 House of Representatives under the military government's phased programme to restore full civilian rule on Jan. 2.

Sylvester Stallone hurt on movie set

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sylvester Stallone was injured doing his own stunts in Italy for the film Cliffhanger, but the Rambo and Rocky movie star was stitched up and back to work in 90 minutes. Nine stitches were needed to close a deep gash in Stallone's right hand, unit publicist Peter Silbermann said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press from a soundstage outside Rome. "Sly has been doing 90 per cent of his stunts and he is probably in the best shape of his life," said Silbermann. "He's fine. He came back and reshot the scene. They used a lot of makeup and a flesh-toned bandage to cover the wound." Stallone returns to the action-thriller film genre in Cliffhanger, which co-stars John Lithgow and will be released next spring. Die Hard 2 director Renny Harlin is calling the shots.

S. Africa, Botswana to feed starving hippos

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — South Africa and Botswana conservation officials will work together to feed 120 starving hippos along their common border, an official said. Pieter Mulder, a South African conservation official, said insufficient grazing along the Limpopo River because of drought made it necessary to feed the hippos. He said feeding began two weeks ago and would continue until the rainy season, which usually begins in November. South Africa will pay for the first three months of the programme, and Botswana will pay for the other two months, Mr. Mulder said.

Koreas reach stalemate in nuclear dispute

SEOUL (R) — North and South Korea failed to make any progress in nuclear inspection talks Tuesday, undermining already shaky prospects for a new era of cooperation.

The stalemate is a blow for relations, improved slightly this week with the visit to the South of North Korean Deputy Premier and Foreign Trade Minister Kim Dal-Hyon.

The visit, the highest-level economic exchange between the two rival states, raised southern hopes that Pyongyang might make some concessions in the nuclear issue in a bid to restart moves towards denuclearisation.

The South, fearing the North is close to building a nuclear bomb, has made mutual inspection of nuclear facilities a condition for closer economic and political ties. But the two sides cannot agree on agreements for inspections.

"Today's joint Nuclear Control Committee failed to reach any agreement because the North maintained its previous position," a southern spokesman said at the end of a three-hour meeting at the border town of Panmunjom.

"To ensure thorough and effective mutual nuclear inspections, no site or facility, civilian or military, should be granted sanctuary or exception," he said.

The North-South Nuclear Control Committee, established in March with the goal of transforming the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone, will meet again on Aug. 31.

"It is not likely the nuclear question will be resolved at an early date as the North continues to delay inspections," the spokesman said.

The North maintains its nuclear programme has a clean bill of health after inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in May and June.

The IAEA reported that Pyongyang's nuclear development was not a threatening stage. But suspicious still linger in Seoul that the North may successfully have hidden some of its facilities from the IAEA.

Northern Deputy Premier Kim meanwhile spent the third day of his scheduled week-long visit to the South touring industrial sites in provincial areas. He was due to meet President Roh Tae-Woo later this week.

Mr. Kim has skirted the nuclear issue, saying he would limit discussions to economics. But South Korean officials said Mr. Roh was likely to bring up the subject.

Mr. Kim's delegation Tuesday expressed displeasure about South Korean news reports describing the North's rigidly-planned economy as bankrupt.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Georgia plane crash toll rises to 43

MOSCOW (R) — At least 43 people, including about 30 residents, died when a cargo plane crashed into a suburban area in the Georgian capital Tbilisi Monday, Radio Russia said. "About 30 (local) inhabitants died," the radio said. Earlier, Tengiz Epitashvili, head of the Georgian Police's Transport Department, told local reporters: "Seven crew members and six people accompanying the cargo were killed." "The plane crashed because it was overloaded," Mr. Epitashvili added, officials said the plane, loaded with a commercial cargo of tea, had been unable to gain altitude as it took off from the Transcaucasian country's main airport. It was heading for the southern Russian resort town of Mineralnye Vody.

U.S. aircraft crashes, 7 killed

WASHINGTON (R) — All seven people aboard a V-22 Osprey aircraft that crashed Monday in the Potomac River south of Washington are presumed dead, a Marine Corps spokesman said. The spokesman said it was not known if those killed were military or civilian. The cause of the crash was under investigation. The crash occurred about 80 kilometres south of Washington while the Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft was flying to a base at Quantico, Virginia, from Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. The Osprey can land and take off like a helicopter and then lift its engines forward and fly like an airplane. CNN said the craft "dropped as it was making its transition from its plane mode... into its helicopter, hovering mode."

Haitian boat sinks; 50 feared dead

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — More than 50 Haitians are thought to have drowned when a sailboat crammed with refugees capsized in squally weather 20 miles north of the capital, independent Radio Metropole reported. Metropole said only five of the 58 people aboard the boat, which sank Sunday near the coastal town of Cabaret, were known to have survived. Fifteen bodies had so far been recovered, the broadcaster said.

Bus crash kills 25 in Guatemala

GUATEMALA CITY (R) — Twenty-five people, most of them teenage dancers, were killed in a bus crash on a Guatemala mountain road, authorities said. The bus, which was carrying a ballet troupe from the Mexican city of Ciudad Juarez to a folk festival in the Guatemalan town of Antigua, plunged into a ravine Sunday night after its brakes failed, the Guatemalan Fire Department said in a statement.

'Child labour exploding' throughout world

WASHINGTON (R) — Hundreds of millions of children around the world are being forced to work, often at dangerous or illegal jobs, and a rising number of them have become prostitutes or drug runners, a study said. "Child labour is a serious and alarming problem in many parts of the world," the study by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said. "Many (children) are employed illegally or in dangerous conditions that main and kill them, while others grow up without education and condemned to lifelong poverty," the group said in the report. It said some as young as five and as many as 25 per cent of all children between the ages of 10 and 14 in some regions are estimated to be working.

King returns to Lesotho

MASERU (R) — Former King Moshoeshoe has returned to army-ruled Lesotho calling for reconciliation and democracy, but a potentially explosive dispute about the role of the monarchy remains unresolved. "A chief is a chief by the will of the people," King Moshoeshoe told reporters on his return from two years' exile in Britain, under an agreement brokered by the Commonwealth. "Bring rain we are starving," shouted ecstatic supporters when King Moshoeshoe left his limousine to ride with blanket-clad horsemen into his drought-stricken village of Matsieng. King Moshoeshoe, 54, vowed to campaign for human rights and assist the mountain state's scheduled transition to democratic civilian government after six years of army rule.

Kenyan opposition unites to oust Moi

NAIROBI (R) — Leaders of Kenya's main opposition party vowed Tuesday to end internal bickering to improve their chances of ousting President Daniel Arap Moi in the country's first multi-party elections in 26 years. Facing an exodus of disillusioned members after months of squabbling, the four leaders said they would let voters decide who should spearhead the party's challenge to "Moi's misrule" and work together to end his 13 years in power. The Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (FORD) has spent much of the past few months squabbling over who should be its leader and presidential candidate whenever Mr. Moi decides to hold pluralist elections.

Palermo mayor quits after anti-mafia protests

PALERMO, Sicily (Agencies) — As Italy marked the assassination of an anti-mafia crusader with silent protests, the mayor of Palermo resigned Tuesday to call national attention to the plight of his city bloodied by mob murders.

"Palermo says, 'basta' (enough)," Mayor Aldo Rizzo told a television newscast. "Palermo wants peace, no more of these massacres, but it can't accomplish this by itself."

Mr. Rizzo's resignation came as news reports said as many as seven of 16 deputy prosecutors assigned to mafia cases in the Palermo area planned to quit following the bombing Sunday that killed Judge Paolo Borsellino and Judge Giovanni Falcone, was assassinated on May 23 with his wife and three bodyguards.

There have been no arrests in either case.

In protests organised by Italian unions, TV stations halted programmes for 10 minutes, trading on the Milan Stock Exchange stopped for 5 minutes and police in Rome halted traffic in the capital for one minute at 11 a.m.

Palermo says, "basta" (enough). Mayor Aldo Rizzo told a television newscast. "Palermo wants peace, no more of these massacres, but it can't accomplish this by itself."

New AIDS figures show Asia, Africa hardest hit

AMSTERDAM (R) — A million people were infected with AIDS in the first half of 1992, with countries in sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia bearing the brunt of the killer virus, World Health Organisation (WHO) figures show.

The figures, released in Amsterdam Monday at the eighth International Conference on AIDS, gave a chilling picture of the spread of the pandemic which is outrunning the modest progress of scientific efforts to combat it.

"One person is infected every 15-20 seconds," said Michael Merson, head of the WHO's Global AIDS Programme.

He said about half the new cases of AIDS had occurred in the sub-Saharan region, which includes many of the world's poorest nations, and South and South East Asia.

"Whereas yesterday Asia was relatively spared, today transmission rates in some areas of South and South East Asia are as high as they were a decade ago in sub-Saharan Africa and some time during this decade more Asian will be newly infected each year than Africans," he said.

The WHO estimates that 10-12 million adults and one million children worldwide have been infected with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), which causes the disease, since the start of the pandemic a little more than a decade ago.

Of those infected, more than two million have developed AIDS and most of them have died.

A string of speakers and conference delegates criticised the inertia of governments in confronting the disease, which has spread rapidly and jumped across boundaries of gender and sexual preference as well as geographical borders.

Merson said 80 per cent of adult hospital beds in some African cities were already occupied by AIDS patients, while other speakers noted that some countries in Africa spent less than one per cent of gross national product on health care.

"It is a real problem in this epidemic, getting the political commitment we need," said Mr. Merson.

He said that poor countries and communities were being hit hardest by the disease. "It is a vicious circle," he said. "The poor community that is vulnerable to AIDS becomes even more impoverished by AIDS."

Lack of international cooperation in sharing resources and knowledge, as well as official discrimination against AIDS sufferers, came in for harsh criticism from leading delegates.

The United States, which was

the original venue for the current AIDS conference but was rejected because of Washington's visa restrictions barring foreigners infected with the virus, came in for particular criticism.

"I don't think President (George) Bush is doing anything about AIDS... I don't think he even knows how to spell AIDS," said actress Elizabeth Taylor, a long-time campaigner on behalf of people with AIDS.

"The fight against AIDS is not, and must never be, a fight against other people. It is a fight of human beings against a virus," Ms. Taylor told a news conference.

"Only when we recognise this can we join hands as a global community and work effectively to vanquish this terrible epidemic."

Ms. Taylor, founding chairman of the American Foundation for AIDS Research, said she supported the liberal Dutch approach of handing out free needles to drug users and promoting use of condoms to help check the spread of the killer disease.

She criticised the U.S. for not doing the same.

"Condoms with education is safe sex," declared the veteran screen idol.

"Sex is a God-given invention. But we do need safe sex."

Ms. Taylor has helped raise millions of dollars for AIDS research since actor Rock Hudson, a close friend, died as a result of the disease in October 1985.

Scientists said Monday it was vital to halt the spread of sexually transmitted diseases which they believe help fuel the AIDS epidemic.

There was growing evidence of a "mutual cycle" of infection with the AIDS virus and diseases like gonorrhoea and syphilis, Judith Wasserheit of the U.S. Centres for Disease Control (CDC) told the conference.

People with Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) could be three to five times more vulnerable to infection with HIV, she said.

"The body of biological evidence supporting the role of STDs in HIV infection is growing," said Marie Laga of the Institute for Tropical Medicine in Antwerp.

HIV-positive people also appear to run a higher risk of developing STDs, said Frank Plummer of the University of Nairobi.

"There's fairly convincing evidence that the presence of HIV — because of its effect on the immune system — increases STDs," he said.

Ms. Taylor, founding chairman of the American Foundation for AIDS Research, said she supported the liberal Dutch approach of handing out free needles to drug users and promoting use of condoms to help check the spread of the killer disease.

She criticised the U.S. for not doing the same.

"Condoms with education is safe sex," declared the veteran screen idol.

"Sex is a God-given invention. But we do need safe sex."

Ms. Taylor has helped raise millions of dollars for AIDS research since actor Rock Hudson, a close friend, died as a result of the disease in October 1985.

Scientists said Monday it was vital to halt the spread of sexually transmitted diseases which they believe help fuel the AIDS epidemic.

There was growing evidence of a "mutual cycle" of infection with the AIDS virus and diseases like gonorrhoea and syphilis, Judith Wasserheit of the U.S. Centres for Disease Control (CDC) told the conference.

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